■ **Sports / A25**

Archers shoot down Eagles, gain Final Four edge

■ **World / A10**

Howard won't bow to Iraqi militants

■ **Business / B1**

BIR exceeds August collection goal

Tanong ng Bayan / A25

Talamak na nakawan ng cell phone: Ano'ng solusyon?

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 280 P18

website: www.inq7.net

RANDY HORMILLOSA

MAXWELL IN MANILA
Leadership expert and author John Maxwell arrives in Manila to conduct seminars at the Araneta Coliseum and the PICC. Some 15,000 people are expected to attend the first offering of the Inquirer Executive Seminar Series, PLDT and Salt Light Ventures.

Has Subic Bay become center of car smuggling?

By Michael Lim Ubac

HAS SUBIC Bay, a freeport hub, become a smuggling center?

This question cropped up after Customs Commissioner George Jereos

HAS SUBIC/ A8

ANO ITO, KALIWAAN?

Napocor chief quits, leaves firm bleeding

JESS YUSON

FIGUEROA: 'Personal deficit'

MURGA: Wish to retire granted

Senators ask other gov't execs to resign

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENT of National Power Corp., the biggest money-losing government-owned and controlled corporation, quit yesterday amid calls in the Senate to fire heads of financially troubled GOCCs which had caused the public sector deficit to widen.

The resignation of Napocor president Roger Murga was announced in Malacañang less than 24 hours after National Treasurer Mina Figueroa's offer to quit was made public.

President Macapagal-Arroyo granted Murga's wish to retire but prevailed on him to stay up to Dec. 31, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said after a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Murga turned 70 on Aug. 19 and had been wanting to retire since June, according to Perez. The energy secretary said the President was "extremely adamant [not] to oblige" Murga's request to quit three months ago but the Napocor president reiterated this during his 70th birthday.

Napocor has lost more than P140 billion over the past six years and is expected to further lose P114 billion this year. Its P1.3-trillion debt as of last year accounted for 42 percent of the national government debt.

Senators yesterday called on ranking government officials, particularly the economic managers who had mismanaged the economy, to resign en masse if they could

NAPOCOR/ A8

Nat'l treasurer left because of low pay

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo, *Business*

SHE JUST wanted a higher paying job and nothing else.

Mina Figueroa yesterday told senators that it was her "personal deficit" problem that had led her to resign as the country's national treasurer.

Attending as a resource person at a Senate briefing on the proposed 2005 national budget, Figueroa denied she was resigning because of the government's fiscal problem.

"The ship has not sunk yet. My resignation is not because of anything else but only because I have to think of my own finances," Figueroa told reporters later. Her resignation takes effect on Oct. 15.

While the national treasurer is still very much single, her savings have dried up because of her measly salary as a government official.

Figueroa refused to reveal her monthly salary. "Don't ask, *baka maiyak kayo* (you might weep)," she said, smiling.

She noted that it was impossible for her salary to be raised because of the Salary Standardization Law.

NAT'L/ A8

GOCC execs get ₱5M to ₱9M in pay, Boncodin tells senators

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo

THE SALARIES were so big that Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. couldn't help but note that one of them earned an annual income equivalent to the combined yearly earnings of three of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic managers.

The Senate finance committee, at a hearing yesterday on the proposed 2005 national budget, asked for—and got—from officials the list of salaries and allowances that heads of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) brought home per year.

The list showed that, for 2002, the top 10 GOCC heads with the fattest annual incomes were split between officials of Philippine National Oil Co. and Development Bank of the Philippines. Their incomes ranged from P5 million to P9 million.

Then PNOC-Energy Development Corp. chair and president Sergio Apostol topped the list, with total salaries and allowances amounting to P9.2 million in 2002.

Trailing him were DBP chief operating officer Edgardo Garcia (P7.4 million); PNOC president and CEO Rufino Bomasang (P6.1M); DBP senior vice president Victor Villar (P6M); PNOC chair and CEO Thelmo Cunanan (P6M); DBP SEVP Panser Tumangan (P5.9M); DBP EVP Eliza-

GOCC/ A13

Bishop asks people: Give time, skills to gov't

By Blanche S. Rivera and Vincent Cabreza,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

UNSATISFIED with the outpouring of donations to the Bayanihan Fund, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla is now urging people to give of their time and skills to their local governments.

Capalla, who is also president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said he was looking to revive a 1960s CBCP program called "Alay Kapwa" (offering for your fellowmen). Only this time, he said, it could be called "Alay Gobyerno."

In a pastoral letter read in Davao City on Sunday, the archbishop called on his fellow bishops and other religious and lay leaders to help him find once again the devotion that had spurred Alay Kapwa.

"We can revive this expression of collective stewardship by ... sharing our precious time, our professional talents and our hard-earned money," said the three-page pastoral letter, which is being distributed this week in Davao.

Capalla acknowledged that it was a tall order for the ordinary citizen. "[This] needs a conversion of heart ... a revival of faith, a belief in everyone's capacity for good," and, considering what had made it necessary in the first place, he said, "a conviction that one's inherent goodness is not lost even when one makes a blunder or mistake, commits a crime, is

BISHOP/ A22

TRADE-IN
WE BUY and
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HAND (ANY KIND)
CELLPHONES
We ALSO SELL
BRAND NEW

A GREENHILLS shop enjoys brisk business selling second-hand cell phones. RAFFY LERMA

Editors' Note. The INQUIRER joins other INQUIRER media outlets in a new venture in Philippine journalism: theme-driven special reports running simultaneously in different media outlets: on the Inq7.net website, in the Inquirer Libre free paper, on the InqTV newsmagazine program, in the Bandera and Tumbok papers and in the Cebu Daily News. Our first theme recognizes the importance of the cell phone phenomenon. From 22.5 million last December, the number of cellular phone subscribers grew to 27.3 million in June. The rapid growth, however, has fueled another social phenomenon: rampant cell phone theft.

•People have killed to steal cell phones, and people have died protecting their property. Why is this so?

For over a month, a total of 35 reporters, correspondents, producers and researchers took part in the coverage. The result, available from Tuesday to Thursday this week, is 22 related stories in seven media outlets.

CELL PHONE THEFT
Inquirer
InqTV
Libre
Inq7.net
Bandera
Cebu Daily News
Tumbok

INSIDE INQUIRER
Across the Nation: Phone thieves, drug users /A20
Business: Smart, Globe: It's a police matter/B1

IN OTHER INQUIRER MEDIA
Inq7.net: Phone shops get stricter (www.inq7.net/cellphonetheft)
Libre: How to avoid cell phone theft
Tomorrow, in InqTV :
How to stop this crime wave

TO DIE FOR

Figures don't tell real story

By Christian V. Esguerra

(Second of three parts)

IN THE records of the National Capital Region Police Office, there is not a single case of cell phone theft in the cities of Makati and Muntinlupa, and only one case each in the cities of Mandaluyong and Pasay.

The busy University Belt in Manila is conspicuous for its absence in any of the phone theft lists of the Philippine National Police. To think that thefts are so rampant that warning signs have been put up along Dapitan Street near the University of Santo Tomas, and on Recto and Mendiola Avenues where six other schools are located.

FIGURES/ A22

IN THE KNOW

Since 2002, more than 50,000 cell phones have been blocked by the National Telecommunications Center.

1 Find Your IMEI
Type *#06# or
Find it on
the printed compliance plate
under the battery.

2 Register
Type
REG_<CELL PHONE NUMBER>_<IMEI>_<PINCODE>
and send to 682

3 Block your phone
as soon as you learn it is lost or stolen.
Use any GSM phone to block a cell phone.
Type
BLOCK_<CELL PHONE NUMBER>_<PIN CODE>
and send to 682.

4 To unblock
Use any GSM phone.
Type
UNBLOCK_<CELL PHONE NUMBER>_<PIN CODE>
and send to 682.

5 To unregister
Use the cell phone whose registration
you want to undo.
Type
UNREG_<CELL PHONE NUMBER>_<PIN CODE>
and send to 682.

6 To change pin code
Use the registered cell phone whose
pin code you want changed.
Type
PIN_<OLD PIN CODE>_<NEW PIN CODE>
and send to 682.

HELP MENU
Type HELP
and send to 682.

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Cell phone stolen? Get even, disable it

By Luige A. del Puerto

IF YOUR cell phone has been lost or stolen, you can ask the National Telecommunications Commission (BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City) to disable or block it.

You will need these documents: affidavit of ownership and loss (available at the NTC office), two valid identification cards (passport, driver's license, company or school ID, etc.), and proof of ownership (purchase receipt or bar code sticker of the phone's original box). If you do not have proof of ownership, a police certificate stating that your phone has been stolen will do.

Two numbers identify your GSM mobile phone—the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) and the International Mobile Subscriber Identifier (IMSI). The first is the number of the phone itself; the second is the electronic serial number of the Subscriber Identity Module or SIM card.

CELL PHONE/ A22

Second FrontPage
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/15/04

Barbers: No need for 'talking heads'

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia should limit the "talking heads" in the House of Representatives who only add to the confusion on its position on certain issues and further accelerate a drop in its credibility rating, according to Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte).

In his letter to De Venecia dated Sept. 13, Barbers reminded the Speaker of his being the *primus inter pares* (first among equals) and that there was no substitute, alternate or designated "talking head" that the media or the public would accept especially on matters of national importance to speak for the House.

"This is one reality you will agree with me, that cannot and should not be delegated. Note the fact that your position carries the title of Speaker," Barbers wrote.

Barbers, who resigned as majority spokesperson on Monday, noted that as a political body, the House has a surplus of spokespersons, with both the majority party and the majority coalition having one or more spokespersons.

Barbers said that since the elections were over, the immediate need was to ensure credibility and consistency of House position and of leadership issues.

He said that a spokesperson was no antidote to the malignant image problems and the decades-long institutional battering of Congress in the public mind.

"We must put an end to Congress being the convenient 'whipping boy' of what is wrong in the country and in politics. Congress continues to be singled out as one of the principals, if not the only culprit, when things go wrong. Not so much the senators or mayors and others in government but 'congressmen'," Barbers said.

The congressman stressed that Congress has been demonized over budget deficits, trillion-peso foreign loans and the gargantuan fiscal crisis when the facts showed otherwise.

Barbers said the Office of the Speaker must handle and speak for the House alone.

Political issues, he said, should be handled by the Lakas spokesperson and the majority coalition spokesperson only when the need arises.

The majority leader, on the other hand, can speak for and and discuss the legislative aspects as they relate to the issues of the times as well as the day-to-day concerns of the institution.

The committee chairs can handle the issues and concerns under their respective assigned bodies.

Barbers also asked De Venecia to set up a House Task Group that will set up an "honest-to-goodness House Communications and Public Information Center" similar to the Corporation Communications Centers of private corporations.

Barbers said House deputy secretary general Noel Albano could be the lead man of this task force, having vast experience in mass media and political communications.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) said that no amount of public relations work could do magic to the shattered image of the House unless the congressmen themselves change.

Escudero, however, pointed out that the image of most congressmen in their districts was not as bad as their collective image as members of the House.

"Sa distrito namin, mabango kami," said Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (LDP, Aurora).

"We have been helping a lot of our constituents. *Pero dito sa Maynila, bagsak kami.* Maybe because you don't see what we're doing in our district and you don't see our projects here," Angara said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said withdrawing the unpopular tax measures that Malacañang wanted Congress to pass would be the best public relations move to redeem the image of Congress.

Solons restive over loss of pork; JDV under fire

By Carlito Pablo

RESTIVE does not begin to describe the atmosphere in the House of Representatives.

Not only are the congressmen concerned over the possible loss of their pork barrel, they are mulling a subtle change in leadership following the example set by the Senate.

Pro-administration Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (Kampi, Isabela) yesterday called on Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to "share the speakership with other qualified House leaders," as a first step toward initiating reforms and improving the battered image of the chamber.

"The changing of the guard should begin now," Albano said. "The young breed should be given a chance to lead the chamber. The new generation of congressmen is fed up with the system of *trapoism* (traditional politics)."

Albano's call came amid efforts by congressmen to find ways to improve the chamber's image, which has been tarred by the pork barrel issue and the horse-trading practices of some of its members.

One idea that was floated was to hire a professional public relations expert whose job it would be to refurbish the image of the House.

Albano found an ally in opposition Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) who noted that the Senate presidency will be shared by Senators Franklin Drilon and Manuel Villar.

"If term-sharing is being done in the Senate, why can't it be done in the House?" Marcos asked.

Marcos pointed out that De Venecia himself had initiated term-sharing among the chairpersons of the House committees.

"If it's good enough for the committees, then term-sharing should also be applied to the Speaker's post," Marcos said.

On another front, the House leadership found itself trying to put down a mini-revolt on the floor yesterday.

Alternately, Representatives Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, Agusan del Sur), Rolex Suplico (Independent, Iloilo) and Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental) questioned what they called "unilateral" actions taken by De Venecia.

These included De Venecia's announcement recently that the House membership had agreed to abolish the pork barrel system, when the congressmen had not actually been consulted on this.

At one point, Paras threatened to introduce a motion declaring all positions, including the Speaker's, vacant.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City), however, was able to prevail upon the lawmakers to wait until next week when the pork barrel issue would be discussed in yet another caucus.

It was after an all-party caucus last week that De Venecia had emerged and announced the congressmen's willingness to give up their pork barrel.

Albano yesterday afternoon delivered a privilege speech formalizing his resignation from the majority bloc. It was accepted by the House.

Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) invited Albano to join their group, which Albano quickly accepted.

He stressed, however, that he would remain with Kampi, the political party founded by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Napocor still wants full rate hike

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. is still aiming to get approval before the end of the year of the full P1.87 per kilowatt-hour rate increase it originally petitioned for with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said yesterday.

Perez said that while the provisional rate increase that the ERC granted recently was welcome, "Napocor feels that it is still not enough."

The ERC on Sept. 4 granted Napocor, the state power-generating firm which sells power to distribution utilities, a provisional increase of 98 centavos per kWh, just half of the P1.87 per kWh it petitioned for last June.

Napocor officials said the firm needed the increase to help stem losses projected to top P100 billion this year. The debt-strapped Napocor suffered a net loss of P113 billion in 2003.

Perez said hearings and consultations on the issue would continue between Napocor and the ERC which said it would come out with a final decision before yearend.

"I believe there is some information being requested by ERC which Napocor is willing to provide," said Perez.

Napocor said the P1.87 per kWh rate hike, or a 77 percent increase from current levels, would boost its profit margins to a minimum of 8 percent return on rate base set by its creditors. The latest data showed the power firm's return on rate base at negative 1.77 percent.

The strategy to improve Napocor's financial position is aimed at making it attractive to investors so it will stop being a burden to the national government. The firm's losses and debt have been one of the biggest drag on the government's finances.

Most analysts see the Napocor rate increase as more crucial to solving the fiscal crisis than the new tax measures being proposed by Malacañang.

Malacañang released an Aug. 19 study by UBS Investment saying the "upside surprise" would come from the power sector rather than the tax front.

UBS said that if the rate increase that Napocor is requesting is approved in full, "it would contribute to half the fiscal adjustment that we believe is necessary to stabilize the debt ratio."

It estimated that a full rate hike would cut Napocor's losses to just .8 percent of gross domestic product—the value of all the goods and services produced in the country—from 2.4 percent this year.

Unlike taxes, UBS noted that a power rate hike need not get the nod of Congress which means a "potentially a much swifter passage."

The ERC has 75 days to decide whether or not to grant Napocor the authority to raise rates by mid-October at the latest, UBS said.

Perez: No oil price hikes for 1 month

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez yesterday assured consumers they would enjoy a month-long relief from oil price increases this September as world crude prices continue to fall from historic highs.

With prices of Dubai crude down 18 percent to $33.83 per barrel from a record high of $41.26 just a few days ago, "major oil-refining companies have absolutely no reason to increase prices of their products until the end of the month," Perez said.

Based on this development, Perez said Petron Corp. has announced that it would not be implementing any price increases until the end of the month.

"We welcome their announcement and we hope other major players should follow Petron's example," he said.

Perez said that if world crude oil prices continue their downward trend, there could be adjustments in fuel prices at the end of September, except for diesel whose prices remain high.

"There is an under-recovery in diesel and over-recovery in gasoline products for the new players," Perez said.

The top three oil companies last increased petroleum product prices by 30 centavos per liter on Aug. 18. The new oil players followed their lead about a week later with increases averaging 30 to 45 centavos per liter for gasoline, diesel and kerosene. *Gil C. Cabacungan*

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Jemaah terror group still lurks underground–Bunye

THE JEMAAH Islamiyah terror network maintains underground, cross-border links in the Philippines even though local Muslim separatists had declared they will no longer shelter them, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said yesterday.

"The (JI) threat lurks in the deep underground and there are clandestine connections across our borders but we are closely watching the situation in partnership with vigilant communities and allies in the region," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye was referring to past warnings of JI members being sheltered in some camps of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, now negotiating peace with the Philippine government.

But he declared the JI terror group would "find no hospitable nooks anywhere in the Philippines."

Officials have bolstered security nationwide and given such assurances to ease terror attack fears following last Thursday's deadly bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Indonesia which the JI has accepted responsibility for.

The JI is believed to be the Southeast Asian arm for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network. The group was responsible for the Bali bombings in 2002 and last week's car bomb outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, killing nine and wounding at least 180 others.

JI militants and their local recruits, believed drawn from the MILF, are also blamed for bombings which killed 22 people in Metro Manila in 2000.

Yesterday the Philippine National Police said it was verifying reports that the members of the JI responsible for the Jakarta bombing last week might have trained in the Philippines.

"We are not discounting that possibility. We are leaving that (verification) to our intelligence officials," said Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson.

The military has previously said as many as 60 JI members were being sheltered by MILF commanders in their camps in Mindanao despite their leadership's commitment not to work with terrorists as part of the peace process.

The International Crisis Group, an independent Brussels-based research organization, warned in July that Mindanao had become a training ground for JI and other Islamic extremist groups who maintain connections with local Muslim insurgents like the MILF.

The ICG report said there was a "possibility of international terrorism and domestic insurgency becoming ever more closely interwoven and mutually reinforcing," adding the alleged MILF-JI links could also endanger the peace talks.

It's unclear whether the terror links are just with local MILF commanders or with its leadership, the research group said.

The MILF, which has been waging a 26-year separatist rebellion in Mindanao, signed a truce in 2002 with the government, opening the way for peace negotiations brokered by Malaysia. However sporadic clashes with government forces still take place.

The MILF has denied any links with the JI and as part of its commitment to the peace process has pledged to help the military flush out armed extremists operating in areas it controls in Mindanao.

The MILF said it was inviting members of a Malaysian-led ceasefire monitoring mission to visit their camps in Mindanao to check the alleged presence of JI militants.

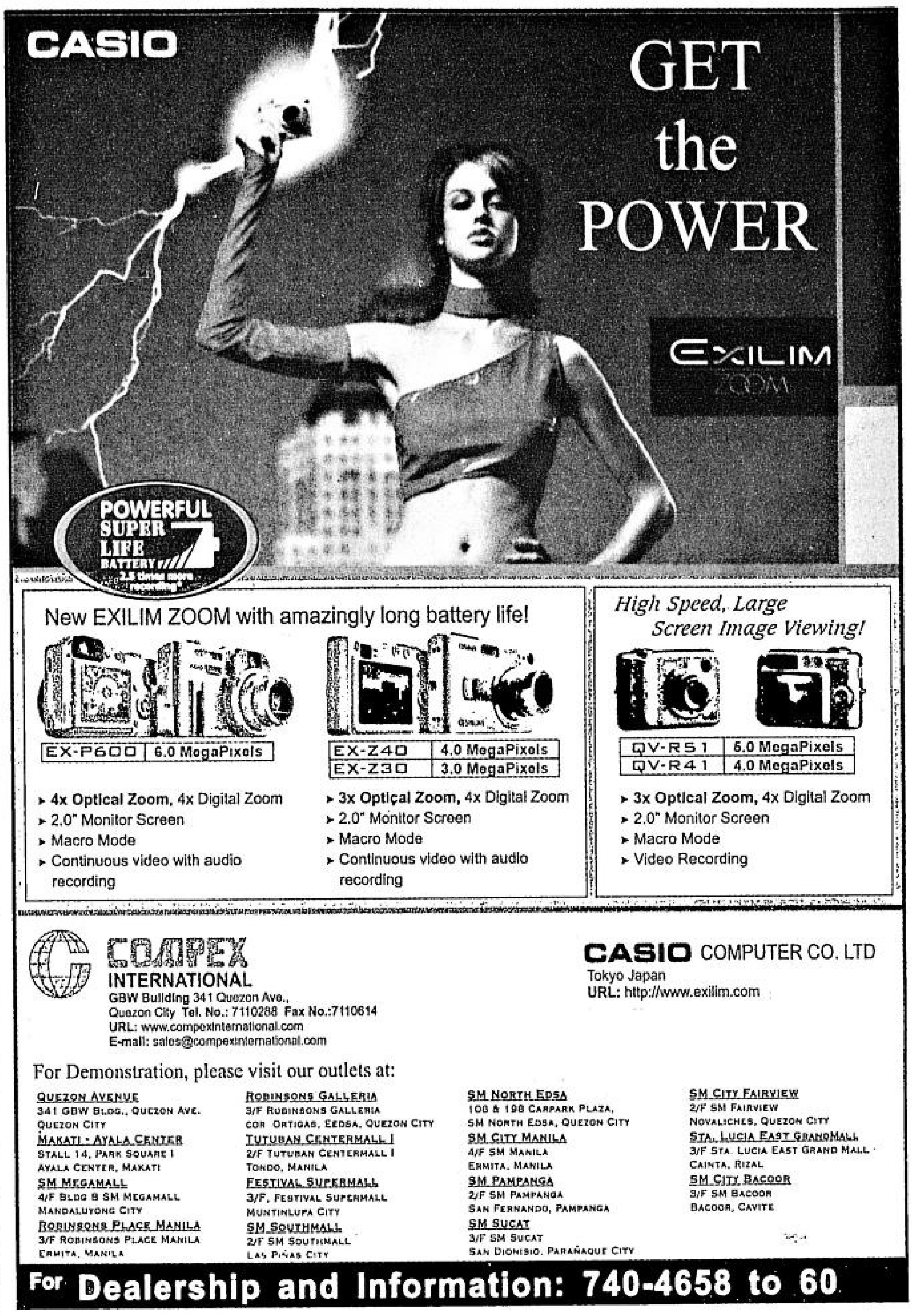
The advance team of Malaysian peace monitors met with Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis yesterday to prepare for the resumption of formal peace talks with the MILF in October in Kuala Lumpur.

The Philippines has been described as the weakest link in the antiterror campaign in Southeast Asia—partly due to its relatively few arrests despite the presence of ranking JI operatives over the years—according to the ICG.

Defense officials also say about two dozen JI militants may be hiding in Mindanao after being displaced from training camps captured by the military. They said said last month that up to 25 JI militants may still be training recruits in the south.

United States military officials have expressed concern over reports of JI training camps in the region, saying foreign militants could pass deadly skills to a new generation of recruits that could strike anywhere in the world.

Bunye said the government's antiterror assaults have cut most links between the JI and the Muslim rebels, and has purged terror cells from the MILF. *With reports from AFP and AP, Alcuin Papa*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Labor group eyes strike moratorium

By Martin P. Marfil

A LARGE labor group yesterday said it was prepared to call a strike moratorium in exchange for employers promising not to resort to retrenchments and layoffs.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said its member unions would refrain from going on strike as their contribution to maintaining stability as the country grapples with a fiscal crisis.

"Difficult times call for drastic measures. Our move to call for mutual sacrifices may raise eyebrows but we need to do this for the workers and the people in general," said TUCP vice president Avelino Valerio.

However, the TUCP said it would adopt the strike moratorium policy only if employers also make a commitment not to retrench or lay off workers.

"In the spirit of national unity, we are prepared to make a commitment that strikes will be used sparingly and only as a last resort. We challenge employers to do the same by committing to preserving existing jobs and observe labor standards," said TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who warned that the country was on the brink of a fiscal crisis, has proposed new taxes to ease the deficit and called for austerity measures to hold down the level of government expenditures.

On Monday, she said the times called for "sacrifice" to sustain economic growth, avert a larger financial crisis and protect the marginalized sectors of society.

The TUCP said the situation called for closer cooperation between labor and management.

But its leaders said workers were apprehensive as they would be the ones affected by the massive cost-cutting measures being proposed.

'Amazing Race' comes to RP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACANANG will take a break from the financial crisis to watch the popular United States reality TV show, "Amazing Race," tonight.

That's because the "Amazing Race" contestants would be racing against each other right here in the country, particularly Metro Manila and Palawan.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez made the special announcement in a Palace press briefing after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"Secretary Obet (Roberto Pangdanganan) and I are pleased to announce that 'Amazing Race,' on its fifth season, would be shown tomorrow night (tonight) on AXN for two consecutive episodes," Perez said. The first episode airs at 8 tonight and the next would be shown next Wednesday.

Perez said the Philippine leg of the race around the world was shot last February but would only be telecast now. "Amazing Race" is a wildly popular show followed around the world by millions of viewers.

"None of us have seen the actual episodes. We would be definitely glued on TV to watch what parts of Manila and Palawan they would be visiting. So please, let's all watch the Philippines being showcased on an international TV," Perez said.

"I hope it will bring increased tourism interest in the Philippines," Perez said.

Perez said that as Cabinet Officer for Regional Development for Palawan, he and Pagdanganan, former tourism secretary, successfully negotiated that "Amazing Race" come to the Philippines.

"Last year we actively promoted the Philippines as destination for the 'Amazing Race' production crew, given that they have so many choices to visit in Asia and we instead convinced them that they should come to the Philippines as part of their reality TV show," Perez said.

Perez said the government assisted the production in terms of logistics.

"As you can imagine this crew is more than a hundred personnel, cameramen, production, and helicopters so it's a big crew that always precedes the actual contestants. Why don't we just watch the episode and we will see for ourselves," Perez said.

Perez also gave this tip: "There is a surprise guest appearance by somebody important so let's all watch the episode." He would not say however who this important somebody is.

Perez's wife, Leigh Talmage-Perez, is chairwoman of the Ten Knots Development Corp., which operates the El Nido Resorts in Palawan.

A RETURN TO THE DARK AGES?

Of late, much attention has been paid to the fiscal crisis faced by the country. Meanwhile, another serious concern, has taken the back seat.

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Comelec defends deal for automated counting

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday disputed allegations that bidding rules were tailor-made to favor Mega Pacific Consortium (MPC), the winning bidder in the controversial multimillion-peso automated project for the 2004 elections.

Comelec also denied that the automated counting machines (ACMs) had been grossly overpriced. According to a statement issued by the election body, they picked "the lowest, complying and responsive bid. The transaction involving the purchase of the ACMs with P4.43 billion savings is above par and beneficial to the government, free of graft and corruption."

On Monday, Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, who was in charge of the Comelec's 2004 automated counting and canvassing project, told the Senate blue ribbon committee how the savings were realized.

Borra said that since 2002, numerous consultation conferences were held by then Comelec head Alfredo Benipayo with the National Movement for Free Elections, industry heads and the private sector.

A consensus was arrived to peg P900 million for hardware budget, P400 million for software and related services, or a total budget of P1.3 billion.

He said a comparative study was made of the bids of MPC and Total Information Management Consortium (TIMC).

He explained that MPC offered to count 40 million ballots at a bid price of P1.248 billion while TIMC could only count 14.7 million ballots at a higher cost of P1.298 billion.

MPC's coverage was nationwide while TIMC was restricted to Mindanao and the National Capital Region (NCR).

MPC's cost per voter was P31.22 while TIMC was P88.30.

Borra cited a technical evaluation by the Department of Science and Technology which said that MPC's machine is automatically fed and can count 50 ballots per minute, while TIMC's machine is manually fed and can count 10 ballots per minute.

MPC's machine detects and rejects fake ballots while TIMC's antiquated machine could not.

MPC's cost per ballot per minute was P12,536 while TIMC was higher by 355 percent or P57,130.

The Comelec said that to match MPC's capacity, TIMC would have to charge the government P5.678 billion for 40 million ballots to be counted.

Borra said the final bidding for the ACMs was in March 2003. "The procurement of (the counting machines) was done through public bidding and MPC's bid was within the government estimate."

Corvera, veteran newsman; 67

VETERAN newsman Alberto K. Corvera, whose career in journalism spanned more than 40 years, died on Monday at the Veterans Memorial Hospital. He was 67.

He is survived by his wife Cely, children Chelle, Anet, Len, Andrew, Gel, Abet; beloved ones Letty, Aloha and Miguel and Paulus; sister Lourdes; and grandchildren Angelo, Carmela, Cherene, Tonton, Yzel and Albert.

The body lies at the Mt. Carmel Parish church in Project 6, Quezon City. Interment is scheduled for Saturday at the South Cemetery.

Bert, as he was known to friends and colleagues, started as reporter for The Evening News in 1960 and also did stints in various capacities with the United Press International, the Philippine Herald, the Hong Kong Standard, the Philippine News Agency, Weekend Magazine of the Philippine Daily Express, PM News, We Forum, Malaya, Midday and the Times Journal. He retired from the Journal Group in 1997.

He was a lifetime member of the National Press Club.

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Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
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Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
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Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
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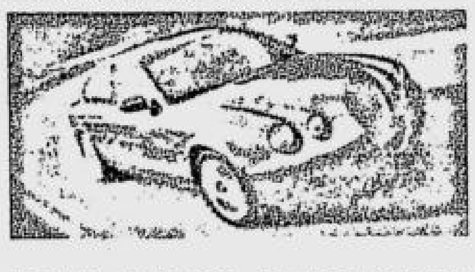

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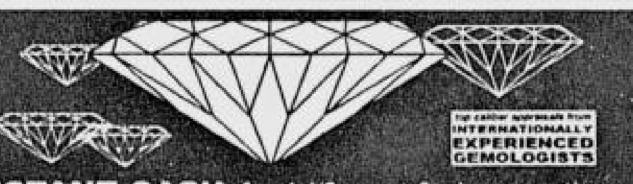

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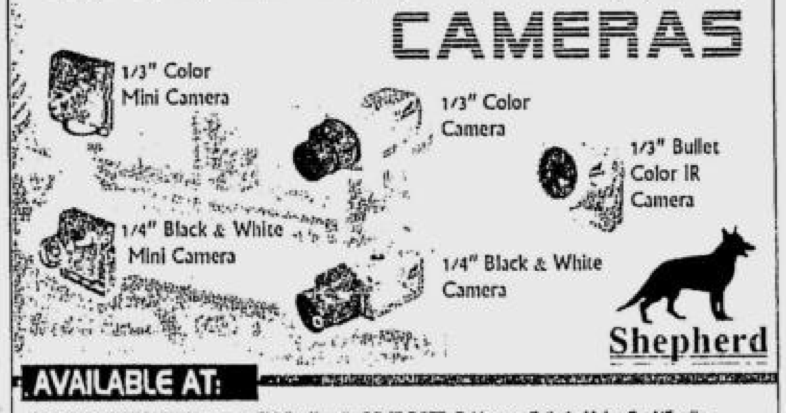
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Napocor chief quits, leaves firm bleeding

From page A1

not solve the fiscal crisis.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the economic managers should follow Figueroa's lead, saying that they had no business staying in office if they had run out of solutions to avert the collapse of the economy.

Eleven professors at the University of the Philippines School of Economics warned last month that the economy would collapse in two to three years unless the government reined in the public sector deficit and debt by adopting revenue and cost-saving measures.

"We should face this crisis squarely. All of us should do our share. But those who are responsible for this crisis and actually messed up the government's financial standing should resign now. The time has come for them to go," Villar said.

NFA and LRTA

On Sunday, Villar called for the firing of the heads of three GOCCs that had contributed to the fiscal deficit from 2000 to 2002 with their losses and liabilities.

He did not name the heads of the GOCCs but identified the three GOCCs—Napocor, National Food Authority and Light Railway Transit Authority.

Villar noted that although the country was in dire straits, heads of top government corporations continued to receive fat salaries and perks.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that "ultimately the President" should be held to account for the economy.

Perez denied that Murga's resignation was prompted by a Senate inquiry into Napocor, one of the government corporations criticized for mismanagement and overspending on perks of its officials.

"The President had hoped that Mr. Murga might continue his outstanding work for Napocor. She, however, has chosen to honor the request of Mr. Murga that he be allowed to spend more time with his family," Perez said at a press briefing.

Reading the President's statement, he said: "She underscores that the leadership of Mr. Murga will be greatly missed, especially since his retirement is taking place at a time when Napocor is at an important chapter in its corporate history."

Retirement program

Ms Arroyo instructed Murga to ensure, before he retired, the following: Complete the streamlining of Napocor, strengthen the mechanisms for cost-reduction, and pave the way for the speedier privatization of the company's generation assets.

"The President has commended the accomplishments of Mr. Murga, particularly in the preliminary streamlining of the company which involved the reduction of Napocor personnel from 8,000 to just about 3,700. This translated to savings in operations for Napocor of about P800 million," the statement said.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo wanted to conduct an inquiry into how Napocor was able to spend P12 billion for the retirement of its senior officials despite its financial problems.

Arroyo said last week that Napocor officials could not explain where they got the money for the retirement program.

Personal sacrifice

The senator said Napocor officials had better get ready because he would look into the retirement program carefully. He noted that even before Napocor could sell its generating assets, officials "already got the money ... then rehired themselves."

Perez said Murga was receiving a basic monthly salary of P107,000, which Ms Arroyo described as a "personal sacrifice."

"She noted that Mr. Murga was plucked out of nearly two years of retirement in January last year to head Napocor. As most people know, Mr. Murga had retired as vice chair of EEI Corp. in 2001 and was already leading a quiet life when he was asked to join the energy sector," Perez said.

Ms Arroyo described Murga as a "silent but effective and dedicated corporate leader whose long experience in the field of management and engineering came in handy at a time when the NPC was headed toward a new and vital direction."

Nat'l treasurer left…

From page A1

Figueroa said she could not be given other directorship tasks because of the government's cost-cutting measures.

She said she would to go back to the private sector where she could make more money.

Policy differences

Figueroa denied reports that she was leaving her job because of policy differences with Department of Finance officials.

"I would like to disabuse that. There is no truth at all to that. I think some may have used my resignation and I felt bad for the people whose names were locked into this," she said.

But when asked if she had had some differences with people at the Treasury, she replied in the affirmative.

"I will have to see an organization where everyone sings the same tune. You really have people there who will, but you resolve this amicably," she said.

Rumor had it her resignation was prompted by policy differences with Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto. While Figueroa was in charge of domestic borrowings, Recto handles the government's foreign borrowings.

She said that when she joined the Treasury as deputy treasurer three years ago, she knew she would not stay long because she was doing her friend Sergio Edeza, then the national treasurer, a favor.

Figueroa replaced Edeza, now an official of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. The two worked together as traders at the treasury department of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas from 1981 to 1989.

Figueroa did not say who would replace her in the Treasury's top post, saying it was up to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong to make a recommendation.

Figueroa, an accounting graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, worked for Equitable-PCI Bank as treasury manager from 1989 to 1990 and for Security Bank from 1990 to 1999.

She joined the Bureau of Treasury in 2001 as deputy national treasurer when Edeza was appointed treasurer. Edeza was the one who asked her to work for the Treasury.

Job offers

As for job offers, she said she had heard of some but "I refused to entertain them while I was still in the position."

After her days at the Treasury, Figueroa said she would take a short vacation and then hunt for a job.

She proposed that the salaries of those who would stay in government be increased as part of the streamlining of the bureaucracy.

"If their salaries are not adjusted, it may look like the government is punishing those who would prefer to stay in government service," she said.

Just like the senators, Amatong and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri expressed regret on Figueroa's decision to resign.

"Ms Figueroa is a very professional lady and the financial sector has a very high respect for her so she would be a loss," Neri told reporters. "I hope the one who would replace her would be at least equally good."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "It would be difficult to find a replacement for Ms Figueroa in the national treasury and the search is on for someone with equal integrity, intensive financial background and expertise and competence."

Malacañang also addressed speculation that Figueroa resigned due to differences on the government's borrowing strategy.

"The President acknowledges the personal reasons cited by Ms Figueroa and these should not be mixed up with policy issues that are handled institutionally by the Department of Finance," Bunye said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

IN THE KNOW

THE JOB of treasurer of the Philippine government is crucial in the face of the huge budget deficit. It is a "tough job" in the words of resigned treasurer Mina Figueroa.

Responsible for the government's funding requirements, the national treasurer is in charge of formulating policies on borrowing, investment and capital market development.

The treasurer heads the office that oversees the disbursement of loan payments—both foreign and domestic—as well as advances made by some government-owned and controlled corporations.

The treasurer also oversees the sale of treasury bills and bonds—rejecting or accepting bids.

Three subsectors—planning and policy, operations and auxiliary—work under the office of the treasurer.

Under the operations subsector is the asset management service, which acts like a financial manager of the country. It seeks to increase the value of the country's cash resources, which consist of revenues from tax and non-tax collections and from other government financial (current and capital) assets. ***Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

Has Subic Bay become center …

From page A1

told the Senate that right-hand-drive vehicles were entering the freeport with the approval of officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The law bans the entry of such types of vehicles into the country.

Testifying Monday at a joint hearing by the Senate committees on trade and industry, and economic affairs, both chaired by Sen. Mar Roxas, Jereos said the entry of right-hand-drive vehicles through Subic was facilitated by importation permits.

Under questioning by Sen. Richard Gordon, Jereos conceded that "no article (including said vehicles) can enter Subic without any import permit issued by the SBMA."

"So SBMA is the culprit then?" asked Gordon, who observed that if SBMA "is ... in this, they (freeport officials) are the ones responsible for the violation."

Jereos replied: "Logical conclusion, Mr. Senator."

Happening at Clark, too?

Pressed further by Gordon, Jereos said the same could hold true at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Gordon pointed out during the hearing that as many as 90,000 cars had allegedly entered the country illegally through SBMA "in the past so many years." In January 2003 alone, 6,000 cars were imported into Subic Bay, he said.

Jereos nodded.

Jereos said that right-hand-drive cars being brought into SBMA were "converted by some companies inside the zone and brought out of the zone as (left)-hand-drive (cars)."

Gordon rebuked Jereos for seemingly being ignorant of SBMA rules and regulations that prohibit such conversions because it "causes pollution to the environment."

The rampant importation of vehicles for conversion to left-hand drive had resulted in diminishing sales in the car market in the last two or three years, based on Land Transportation Office (LTO) records, said Gordon.

Killing local industry

Gordon chided the customs bureau for "turning a blind eye on a pernicious operation that is also killing the local automotive industry."

He said that the government was losing much-needed revenues due to the failure of customs officials to stop the highly questionable importation of luxury vehicles into the country through Subic and Clark.

Gordon reminded Jereos that the customs bureau should enforce at Subic and Clark the law banning the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles.

The senator also pointed out that, during his chairmanship of the SBMA, there were also rules prohibiting the conversion of right-hand-drive vehicles inside the freeport.

"You can just say 'no' to importation of right-hand-drive vehicles and be done with judicial declaration," Gordon told Jereos. "Why has that not happened? Are there powerful interests behind these car importers?"

For monitoring purposes

The senator said that the smuggling of luxury vehicles would cause severe harm to the country from the "standpoint of revenue, productivity, which decreases our creation of jobs, and from the standpoint of safety and the environment."

"Would you let your son or your daughter drive a right-hand vehicle converted to a left-hand vehicle without any assessment made by the LTO or by other responsible authorities?" Gordon asked Jereos.

"I will not," the customs chief answered.

The SBMA, in a statement yesterday, said the freeport "issues importation permits to locators [investors] here for regulated items, including used vehicles, for monitoring purposes."

"Being a freeport zone, goods can be unloaded in Subic without being considered an importation," it said in a statement issued by its public relations office.

"However, before the goods are released into the Customs territory, the importer must secure other necessary permits from the government and pay the required duties and taxes imposed by the (BOC)," it said.

The SBMA said that, while a permit from the Bureau of Import Services (BIS) was required for second-hand vehicles, "the BOC accepts the payment of duties and taxes and penalties in the absence of a permit from the BIS."

"It is only after the taxes and penalties are paid that vehicles are registered when (these) are issued gate passes by the SBMA for their release," the statement said. *With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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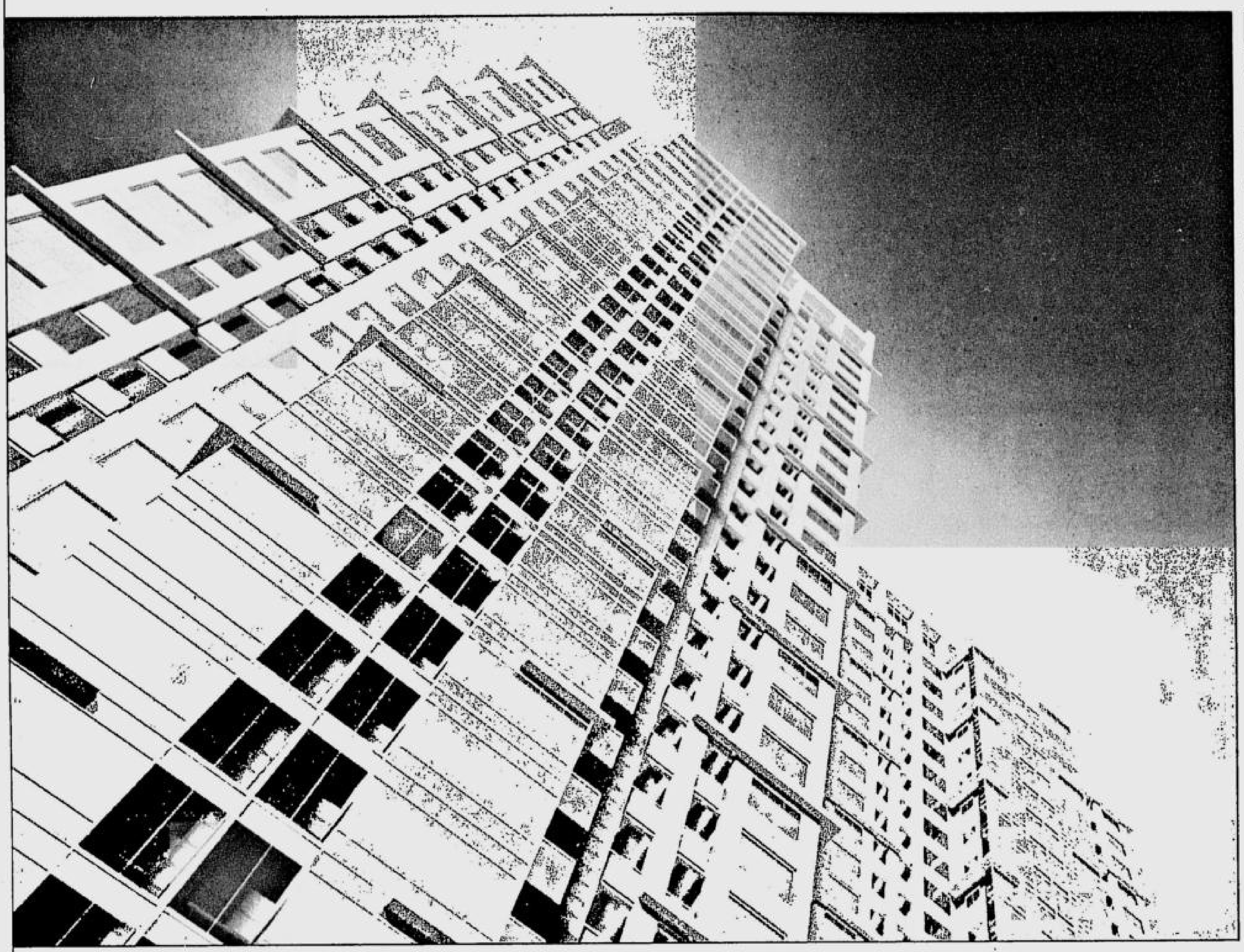

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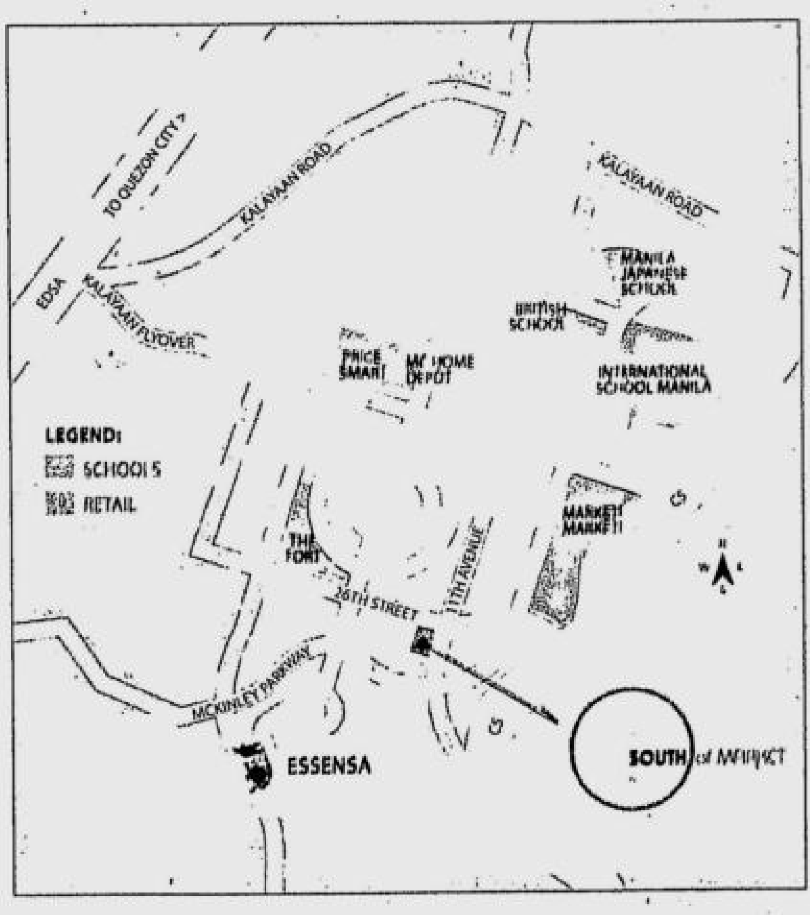
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Howard won't bow to Iraqi militants

CANBERRA—Prime Minister John Howard said Tuesday he would not withdraw troops from Iraq as demanded by militants who claimed to have taken two Australians hostage and threatened to execute them within 24 hours.

Australian officials were trying to determine whether the claim by the Horror Brigades of the Islamic Secret Army that it had abducted two Australian security guards along with two Asians was true.

They also were trying to find out how many Australians are in Iraq, and where they are.

After initially saying there were 88 Australians registered as being in the country, the government said late Tuesday there could be up to 200—mostly private security guards—and so far only 90 have been contacted by diplomats.

"It could be several days before we find out whether Australians have been taken hostage or whether this is a hoax," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Sydney.

Downer said a "logistics" team already was on its way to Iraq from Western Australia state to help extricate the hostages. He refused to say if the team was from the elite Special Air Service regiment which is based in Western Australia.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said hostage negotiators and counterterrorism experts were on standby in Jordan should they be needed, but Downer stressed the government would not agree to any kidnapper demands.

"We will not contract out our foreign policy to terrorists," he said.

The militant group in Iraq claimed it abducted the two Australians and two Asians on a road between Baghdad and Mosul. It said the hostages, who were not named, would be executed if the government did not withdraw from Iraq within 24 hours, authorities said. No other details were immediately available.

"We all hope and pray this information is wrong," Howard said.

"It's encouraging that the people (hostages) have not been named because often when hostages are taken they carry their papers with them and therefore they can be identified and often in the past passports have been displayed on television," he told radio station 5DN.

The potential crisis comes at a sensitive time for Howard as he campaigns for reelection on Oct. 9.

Howard is a staunch US supporter who defied widespread public anger to send 2,000 troops to the invasion of Iraq last year and still has 880 military personnel in and around the country.

The prime minister has repeatedly said he will never negotiate with hostage takers or cave in to their demands—even if Australian lives are on the line.

Opposition Labor leader Mark Latham said Tuesday he backed Howard's stance.

"I am at one with the government in saying you shouldn't negotiate with terrorists and no one should change their policies," he said. *AP*

Massive car bomb kills 47 near Baghdad police HQ

BAGHDAD—At least 47 people were killed in a massive car bomb blast outside the main police headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday, leaving a trail of carnage and chaos in a bustling area of the Iraqi capital.

Witnesses said dozens of people were queuing outside the station, which doubles as a police recruitment center, when the explosives-rigged vehicle blew up, sending shards of shrapnel flying and clouds of smoke into the air.

A health ministry spokesperson said 47 people were killed and 114 wounded in the blast which occurred in the Haifa street area, a troubled district of Baghdad considered a bastion of Saddam Hussein loyalists.

The attack came just two days after fierce clashes between US forces and insurgents in the same area on Sunday left at least 13 people dead and 55 wounded.

Police sergeant Haider Hamid said the bomb struck outside the main entrance of the al-Karkh police center on Tuesday, but that the building itself escaped with only minor damage.

Shrapnel devastated a row of simple stores, including a coffee shop just after 10 a.m., sending smashed glass and twisted debris everywhere.

Outside one smashed shop was a pool table where children, still on summer holiday in Baghdad, often played billiards.

Body parts were littered everywhere and pools of congealed blood was smeared across the pavement, said AFP correspondents.

The health ministry said the casualties were taken to three separate hospitals in the capital.

Angry men cursed US President George W. Bush as tears poured down the faces of shocked residents amid the scene of devastation.

Four cars were burnt-out, but there was no visible damage to the police station itself.

Later, dozens of US troops sealed off Haifa Street as US helicopters circled overhead, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

Shooting flared in the street and panicked residents began fleeing the area where fierce fighting between American soldiers and insurgents left 13 people dead on Sunday.

On Monday, US troops enforced a strict night-time curfew in Haifa Street.

In Baquba, twelve Iraqi policemen and one civilian were killed on Tuesday when gunmen sprayed their car with bullets, police said.

The shooting occurred in the southeastern part of the city, said police officer Mohamed Mabrouk.

Iraqi security forces are regularly attacked in the restive city. In the most recent killing, an Iraqi national guard colonel, his son and a fellow officer were assassinated in Baquba Sunday. *AFP*

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July 15, 2004

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 19, s. 2004

TO : ALL PHILHEALTH MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS, ACCREDITED FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONALS, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO PHILHEALTH POLICIES ON NSD PACKAGE FOR HOSPITALS

Per PhilHealth Circular Number 15 series of 2003 the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation reimburses hospitals a package rate of 4,500 pesos per normal spontaneous delivery (NSD) – 2,500 pesos for the facility and 2,000 pesos for the professional fee.

1. Starting October 1, 2004 admissions, hospitals are obliged to cover room and board, drugs and medicines, diagnostics, operating room fee and all other necessary care except professional fees.

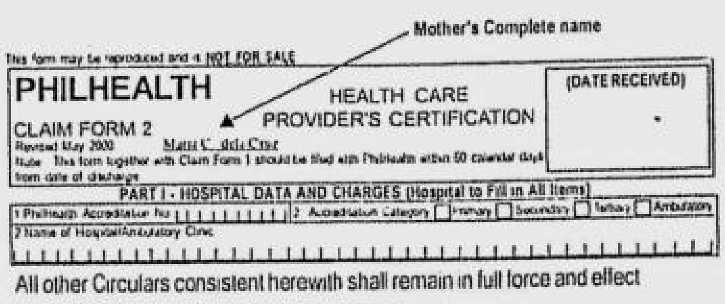
   For this reason, the 2,500 pesos facility fee shall be paid directly to the hospitals. This amends Section 8 of PhilHealth Circular No. 15 series of 2003 and Section E of PhilHealth Circular No. 25 series of 2003.

   All drugs and supplies necessary for normal spontaneous delivery must be provided by the hospital. Violation of such will be appropriately dealt with during renewal of accreditation. Outside purchases by the members shall not be reimbursed.

2. We reiterate that the use of PhilHealth Claim Form 4 is mandatory in the reimbursement for the NSD package starting May 1, 2004 discharges. Non-compliance shall cause return of benefit application to hospitals.

   Itemization of hospital charges shall not be required to support claims for the normal spontaneous delivery (NSD) package.

3. To facilitate processing of claims for newborn care associated with the NSD package, properly filled-out PhilHealth Claim Form 2 must be submitted together with a photocopy of mother's Claim Form 4 effective October 1, 2004 admissions. In addition, mother's complete name must also be specified in the upper left-hand corner of Form 2.



Mother's Complete name

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PHILHEALTH
CLAIM FORM 2

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S CERTIFICATION

(DATE RECEIVED)

PART I - HOSPITAL DATA AND CHARGES (Hospital to Fill in All Items)

All other Circulars consistent herewith shall remain in full force and effect

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'Batman' slips past guards at Buckingham Palace

LONDON—A group that advocates greater rights for fathers in child custody cases sent two of its operatives over the fence at Buckingham Palace Monday, and one of them, dressed as Batman, scampered up a ladder to a ledge near the Queen's balcony, setting off a security alert and a tense standoff with police.

Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family were not in residence and were said to be at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on holiday. The intruder, later identified as Jason Hatch, 33, of Cheltenham, unfurled a banner on the edifice of the British monarchy's massive state residence that said "Super Dads of fathers 4 justice, fighting for your right to your kids." Although there have been numerous breaches over the years, Britons seemed startled by the ease with which palace security was overrun by two men in super hero costumes carrying an extension ladder.

For the next several hours, Hatch waved at befuddled crowds of tourists denied access to the popular Buckingham Palace tour in its final weeks of the summer season. He also engaged in an uneasy repartee with embarrassed police and palace security officials.

After five and a half hours, he removed his Batman mask and agreed to come down. Police used a crane to extract him from the ledge as his supporters chanted "free Batman" from behind a police cordon.

Dave Pyke, wearing a Robin costume, identified himself as Hatch's accomplice. *New York Times*

Indon police offer reward for arrest of terror suspects

JAKARTA—Indonesian police announced a $210,000 reward Tuesday for information leading to the arrest of two Malaysian militants who are the leading suspects in last week's attack on the Australian Embassy.

Investigators said the death toll from Thursday's bombing could reach 11 because 117 fragments of human remains recovered from the scene have yet to be identified.

Authorities earlier put the death toll at nine. As many as three of the dead may have been suicide bombers, Australian and Indonesian investigators have said.

The top two suspects are Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Top, two Malaysians who authorities say are key members of Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked group. Police have launched a massive manhunt for the pair.

Detective chief Lt. Gen. Suyitno Landung said police had allotted $105,000 for information leading to the arrest of either man.

Information leading to the capture of lesser players in the conspiracy was worth $52,000, he said.

Detectives have already identified the chassis number of the white delivery truck used in the blast. Similar evidence led to the arrest of key suspects in the 2002 Bali bombings in which more than 200 people perished.

Jemaah Islamiyah was blamed for the Bali blasts and a suicide attack last year on the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people.

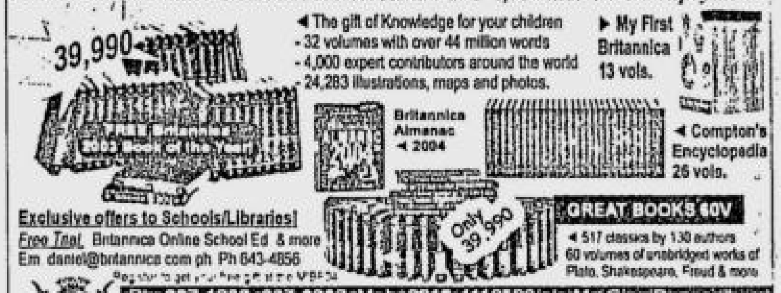
Police say Husin and Noordin Top are believed to have recruited more suicide bombers for more attacks.

The government said Tuesday that the suicide bombing is unlikely to significantly effect the country's $4 billion tourist industry.

"We are not knocked out, but have suffered a jab... we are still standing up," Tourism Minister I Gde Ardika told reporters.

The industry was hit hard by the Bali and Marriott bombings. It was also hurt by the fallout from the invasion of Iraq and Asia's SARS outbreak in 2003.

Still, statistics now show that arrivals are now up to pre-2002 levels, and Ardika said he was confident that the latest attack would not affect projected tourist numbers of more than 5 million next year. *AP*



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September 20 - October 1, 2004 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
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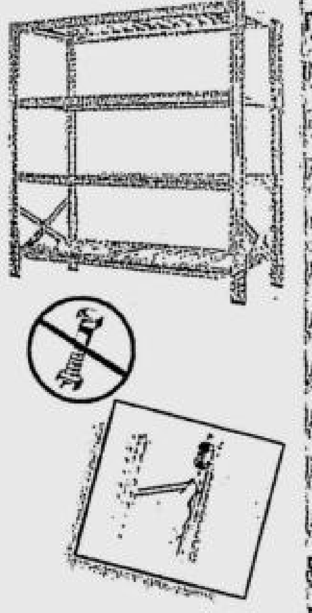

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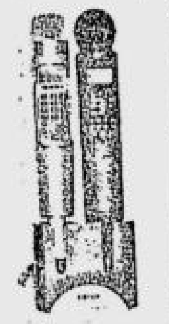

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Sharon rejects call for referendum

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday rejected a rival's call for a national referendum on a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, saying it was an attempt to delay the pullback planned for 2005.

Sharon asked his security Cabinet on Tuesday to approve accelerated compensation payments for 8,500 Jewish settlers who would be removed from their homes. Sharon is trying to speed up the withdrawal and entice settlers to leave voluntarily, to avoid future confrontations between settlers and troops.

Sharon also threatened to expel Yasser Arafat "at a convenient time," saying in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that he saw no difference between the Palestinian leader and top Hamas militants killed by Israel in recent months. Israel says Arafat has encouraged and at times financed attacks on Israel.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said he believes Sharon's threats are part of a hidden agenda "to kill President Arafat and to push the Palestinian people toward chaos... and the rule of militias."

In the West Bank, a Palestinian suicide bomber riding a bike blew himself up near a checkpoint, wounding at least two Israeli soldiers, the Army said. Rescue services said one of the soldiers was seriously wounded.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group linked to Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed responsibility. It said the bombing was meant to avenge the killing of three Al Aqsa members in an Israeli missile strike the day before. The group identified the bomber as Yousef Ghbari, 26, of the nearby town of Qalqiliya.

In newspaper interviews ahead of the Jewish Near Year, Sharon rejected a proposal by Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold a referendum on the Gaza withdrawal. Netanyahu, a former prime minister with ambitions to return to the job, is Sharon's main rival for leadership of the ruling Likud Party.

Sharon has already lost two contests in Likud over his plan, which includes a withdrawal from all of Gaza and four West Bank settlements by the end of 2005.

Threats of violent resistance by Jewish settlers have increased calls for a national referendum on the pullout, which opinion polls show has strong support in the Israeli public. But a referendum would require parliament to legislate a bill allowing for such a vote, a process that Sharon said would delay the withdrawal.

"The issue is not on the agenda," Sharon told the Yediot Ahronot newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

"The real intention here is to delay the implementation. The disengagement plan will be implemented without delay based on the dates that were decided on. We cannot deviate by even one day from what the Cabinet decided," he said.

Sharon's security Cabinet was to approve a bill for compensation payments to settlers Tuesday. Cabinet approval will allow the government to pay cash advances to settlers and entice them to leave their homes ahead of a September 2005 deadline.

Families are expected to receive compensation of $200,000 to $500,000, based on the value of lost homes and property and time spent in their settlements. Advances would amount to a third of the total. *AP*

Woman in Da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa' identified

ROME—Italian scholar Giuseppe Pallanti claims in a new book to have identified Mona Lisa, the woman whose mysterious smile has intrigued art lovers ever since Leonardo da Vinci painted her portrait 500 years ago.

Pallanti's book "Monna Lisa, Mulier Ingenua" (Mona Lisa, Real Woman) says land registry records and other historical documents prove that she was Lisa Gherardini, born in Florence in May 1479.

"I used nothing but archival records," Pallanti said in an interview. "This is not a novel."

A recent blockbuster work of fiction, "The Da Vinci Code," suggests that Mona Lisa was Leonardo's disguised self-portrait. Another theory is that she never existed at all.

But Pallanti said his research shows that she was, as his title asserts, a real person, who in 1495 married a Florentine silk merchant, Francesco del Giocondo.

"When Del Giocondo took Lisa Gherardini as his second wife, she moved up in the world," Pallanti said.

"Her husband supplied textiles to the Medici family," then the dominant force in Florentine politics and culture, he noted.

One of the documents that supports his research is the will drawn up before Francesco's death in 1538, which is addressed to his wife, Pallanti said.

"Lisa Gherardini divided her life between Florence and Chianti," a wine-producing town in Tuscany, he said. *AFP*

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GOCC execs get P5M to P9M in pay, Boncodin tells senators

From page A1

beth Ong (P5.8M); Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia (P5.6M); DBP EVP Rolando Geronino (P5.5M) and DBP EVP Vivencio Macapagal (P5.2M).

Of the top 100 officials who made the list, 24 were from DBP and 22 from GSIS.

2001 big money-earners

In 2001, it was Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Maria Livia "Honeygirl" Singson-De Leon who had the highest annual income with P9.8 milion.

Other top money-earners in 2001, in terms of salaries and allowances, were: PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo, P6.5 million; DBP president Remedios Macalincag, P5.3 million; Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista, P4.2 million; PCSO general manager Ricardo Golpeo, P4.1 million; DBP CEO Edgardo Garcia, P3.8 million, and Social Security System executive vice president Horacio Templo, P3.7 million.

Others among the highest paid in 2001 were Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) executive vice president Jesus Diaz and LBP senior vice president Rodrigo Sopena. Boncodin, however, failed to give the amounts of their salaries.

Villar, the committee chair, sought the list from Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin but she could only provide the Commission on Audit's list of the top 100 officials in 2001 and 2002.

Salaries now under review

Boncodin said her department and the Department of Finance were currently reviewing the compensation packages of GOCC executives and would advise Ms Arroyo whether these were appropriate or not.

Villar told Boncodin he wanted the list because he had called for the resignation of the heads of Napocor, National Food Authority and Light Rail Transit Authority on the grounds that these firms had contributed heavily to the country's deficit problem.

Villar had said these firms accounted for a big share of the total deficit due to losses and liabilities incurred through the years 2000 and 2002.

Villar told reporters that Congress should "rationalize" the salaries and benefits of these GOCC officials owing to the fiscal crisis.

"There should be a change in the compensation scheme of our GOCC officials so that it would not be shameful when they ask people to pay high taxes and high electricity rates," he said.

Should have been sacked

Villar said it would be all right if the salaries were large and the officials getting them were doing a good job.

"But it's clear that their performance as a whole is not that good," Villar said.

"Poor management should not be rewarded with fat salaries," Villar said separately in a statement. "If these officials were in the private sector, they would have been fired."

Boncodin told reporters that the charters of the GOCCs allowed officials to set the rates of their salaries because they were exempted from the Salary Standardization Law.

"We will see how big these salaries are compared to the private sector to determine if these were appropriate to the financial capability of their corporations," she added.

If it was found that the salaries were not appropriate, Boncodin said that "we will recommend to the President the appropriate remedial legislation."

Provoking laughter

"These salaries could be the reason National Treasurer Mina Figueroa has submitted her resignation. Maybe she wants to transfer to a GOCC," Villar joked, eliciting laughter from the audience.

Figueroa said she was leaving government service because of the low compensation and her need to improve her own finances.

The Senate called for an inquiry into the way the GOCCs were being managed or "mismanaged" after finance and budget officials testified at a recent hearing that heavily losing GOCCs—whose officials were enjoying high compensation—were largely to blame for the country's debt woes.

The Senate earlier noted that the country's consolidated public sector debt had reached P5.3 trillion as of 2003. Of the amount, the national government accounted for over P3 trillion, while state-owned companies had a more than P2-trillion share.

Biggest headache

While the national government had a bigger share of the debt burden, a substantial part of its borrowings were also intended to bail out losing state-owned firms, the Senate said.

Among all state-owned companies, Napocor is the government's biggest headache. Napocor's budget deficit is expected to hit P115 billion by year-end and its P500 billion debt will be assumed by the national government as part of its power sector reform agenda.

The DBM said it was studying what measures to push for to impose fiscal discipline on GOCCs.

Boncodin earlier said she welcomed the idea of lifting the exemptions of state-owned companies from the salary Standardization Law or putting a cap on salaries of officials of state-owned companies.

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SM Cebu	Sept. 1 - Sept. 12	SM Appliance Fiesta (Exhibit) SM Cebu Branch
Western-Sta. Lucia Exhibit	Sept. 8 - Sept. 30	Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall, Cainta, Rizal
SM Southmall	Sept. 29 - Oct. 10	SM Appliance Fiesta (Exhibit) SM Las Piñas
Metrobank X-Mas Bazaar	Nov. 11 - Nov. 14	Christmas Sale of Metrobank at the Pavilion in Roxas Boulevard near Toyota Manila Bay
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Hidden danger

EDITORIAL

INVESTIGATORS of the recent bombing in Jakarta have told the wire services that one of their main suspects may have given bomb-making lessons in the Philippines. The Indonesian government maintains that the Jakarta bombing, aimed at the Australian Embassy in that city, was perpetrated by two Malaysians named Azahari bin Hussein and Noordin Top, both members of Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian terrorist group affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Of the two, it is Azahari, a British-trained engineer, who is alleged to have taught bomb-making to fellow militants in Mindanao and Afghanistan. The most recent Jakarta bombing itself already represents a raising of the terrorist ante—the 200 kilos of explosives detonated mark a significant increase over the last such truck bombing—and a reminder that the JI is a continuing threat to the entire region.

Beyond this general reminder of danger to all nations in which the JI may have a presence, the claim by Indonesian authorities that one of the suspects may have taught his deadly craft to others on our soil should spur our authorities to intensify their efforts against the JI and its allies here. This includes greater scrutiny on JI allies, including the widely reported links between the JI and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Time and again, international and Philippine news reports have indicated ties between the two organizations. And while the MILF, since the time of the late Hashim Salamat, has said it would make serious moves to renounce terrorism, it has yet to do so in a substantive way.

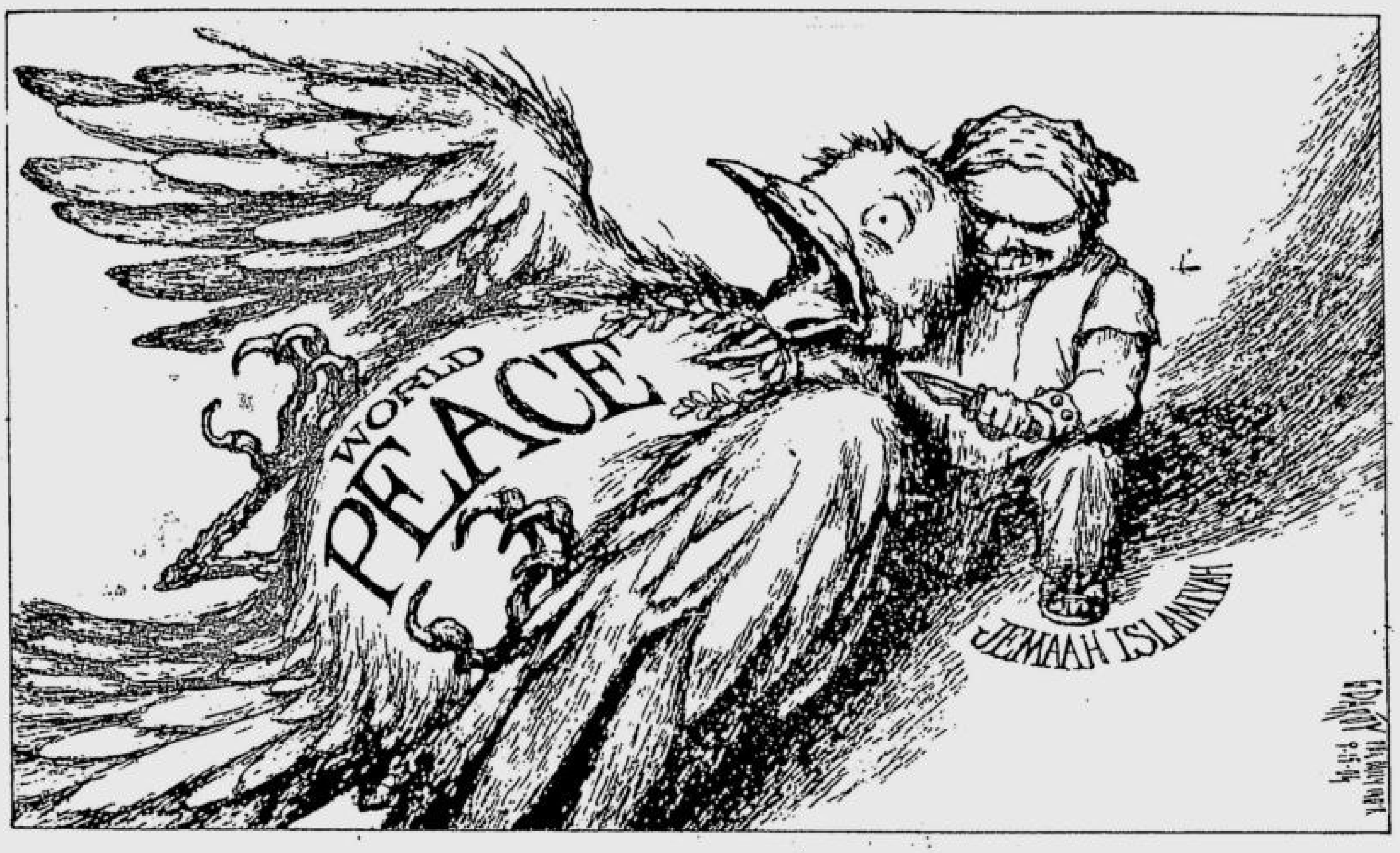
When the MILF took upon itself to cooperate with the Philippine government in cracking down on the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang, it was a step in the right direction. This step, unfortunately, did not result in any further cooperation. Logically, working together to eliminate the Pentagon gang should have led to efforts to root out the presence of the JI in the country. No such cooperation, or plans for such efforts, have been undertaken to date by the MILF and the government.

If a compelling reason was lacking before, one exists now. The statements of the MILF dating back some years should now be backed up by action. If the MILF is really serious about relinquishing its terrorist past and connections, it should do so by undertaking a joint effort with Philippine authorities to eliminate the JI and its local training camps.

The alternative—for the MILF to stick its head in the sand, or worse, cynically continue tacitly assisting the JI while piously pleading it knows nothing of the JI's efforts here—is too grim to contemplate. Not only does it place both Muslim and Christian Filipinos in danger of being targets of a JI attack here, but it makes the country vulnerable to foreign pressure and even aggression.

Our Asean neighbors, such as Indonesia and Thailand which are grappling with militant Muslims, and countries such as Malaysia and Singapore, which are either alarmed by the participation of their nationals in JI plots or fear being the next target of such plots, will not be happy with a Philippines that allows JI training camps to train and export terrorists. We do not have to elaborate, either, on the possibility of intensified American interest in Mindanao, with accompanying political, military and economic pressure on our country to make itself pliable to American strategic interests, at a time when our economy is so shaky.

While the United States views the JI and its capability to attack as an international problem and Asean continues to grapple with the problem, we should remember that this is also a fundamental Philippine problem. Besides the danger of our country being viewed as a helpless, and worse, dangerous coddler of terrorists, we should consider the real danger to ourselves arising from having terrorist training camps in Mindanao as well as terrorist cells in our metropolitan centers. A fearful people, an unsafe people, are a people who cannot devote their energies and concentration to the task at hand. Those tasks are serious enough, without adding the danger of bombs going off in our midst.



DOTC buys land it already owns for P100.8 M

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

AS promised in this column last Monday, here are the details of the latest scam in which the government, through the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), paid P100.8 million for public land it already owns. They were revealed at the Kapihan sa Manila by former Sen. Francisco S. Tatad who said he had been asked by a group of citizens, mostly professionals, who had banded together under the name Citizens vs. Corruption Task Force, to fight corruption in government. Members of the task force had discovered and gathered documents and evidence in the scam. Photocopies of some of these documents were distributed to the press.

Back in 2002, the DOTC paid P100,804,500 to "buy" 10.2 hectares of "public land" in Palawan for the proposed expansion of the Puerto Princesa international airport, Tatad reported. The DOTC concluded the sale a month after it had offered to "buy" the property at P900 per square meter while the government was buying private land for the Iloilo international airport at P60 per sq m. It released payment for the Palawan property four days after the deed of absolute sale was notarized.

The deed of sale shows that the land is not covered by a transfer certificate of title (the space in the contract meant for this information is left blank) and is described as "public land" situated in Barrio Canigaran, Puerto Princesa City.

"The alleged owner, a certain Editha Marcelo Bayron, did not sign the sale," Tatad's statement said. "She was simply represented by a certain Melchor N. Prado, who acted as her attorney-in-fact. From start to finish, Bayron had no direct dealings with the DOTC. She has named two attoneys-in-fact in Puerto Princesa—David A. Ponce de Leon and Prado—but only Prado participated actively in the transaction all throughout. Ponce de Leon had no recorded active participation in the transaction."

The alleged owner did not offer to sell the property (at least there is no record of it). It was the DOTC that offered to buy it—twice. The first offer was made on April 23, 2002 and signed by Director Luis Manuel Virtucio, chair of the DOTC site acquisition committee. The DOTC offered to pay P700 per sq m. It was addressed not to Bayron but to Ponce de Leon and Prado. Prado rejected it on the same day.

On May 13, 2002, Virtucio made another offer, this time at P900 per sq m. Prado accepted it on the same day.

Prado executed the deed of sale with then Assistant Secretary Alan Adena Tan, representing the DOTC. The contract is undated and no witnesses signed it, but it was notarized in Pasig City on June 24, 2002. Four days later, on June 28, 2002, a cashier's check for P89,749,714.69 was released to Prado.

"The crime is clear," Tatad said. "The government bought a property it already, and has always, owned. It was clearly a ghost purchase. The money was simply siphoned off, in the guise of paying for a legitimate expense. Who were responsible and who benefited? DOTC records will reveal their names. We will release these later. Many are no longer in the service. But the syndicate itself may still be operating."

The expansion of the Puerto Princesa airport is part of the Third Airports Development Projects, funded by foreign loans, which include five other airports (the Cotabato international airport and domestic airports in Butuan, Dipolog, Lagadian and Sanga-Sanga). Estimated total cost: P14.3 billion.

The Asian Development Bank and the European International Bank had agreed earlier to bankroll the projects but they have since pulled out because of "the government's unsatisfactory performance." This shows where foreign loans go. These are the loans that are now at the root of our fiscal crisis, to pay for which the Arroyo administration is going to tax the people.

Fighting graft and corruption is one of the well-publicized activities of the President. It is one of the linchpins (together with reducing spending and raising taxes) of her new program of government. But complaints regarding the Palawan transaction have long reached the DOTC, Tatad said, but have so far been ignored.

"We call on President Arroyo to act on this matter with utmost urgency, by ordering the prosecution of all those involved, and by ordering a total revamp of the DOTC," he said.

* * *

The House of Representatives is reportedly looking for a public relations practitioner who can improve the public image of that chamber. But no spin doctor, not even a whole PR agency, can improve the public perception of the House. For it is the members of the House themselves who are destroying its image because of their greed, trickery and corruption. The only way to change it is for God to let His wrath wipe it off the face of the earth and then have the people elect a new generation of politicians.

The case of the pork barrel, which is hated by all the people and a towering example of corruption in government, is a case in point. Realizing that the people will not take it anymore, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his close aides announced that the pork had been abolished in the new budget.

The announcement was met with laughter and derision. Nobody believed it. "They have a trick up their sleeves," people said. And they were right.

We just can't trust these congressmen. It turns out the pork will be abolished only in name. It will still be there, hidden in nooks and crannies in the budgets for various projects. The congressmen will still identify the projects for their districts, and most likely the contractors. And that's where the pork lies: in the commissions kicked back to the lawmakers by contractors.

Don't look outside

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

BEFORE MICHAEL Moore did "Fahrenheit 9/11," he did "Bowling for Columbine." Though "Fahrenheit" is by far the more popular because of its quite literally incendiary subject and its open indictment of George W. Bush, "Bowling," at least in my book, is the more penetrating. It was no accident that it won the Oscar last year for best documentary. It deserved it.

People tend to think it's just a brief against guns, Nandy Pacheco's favorite crusade. Well, yes, it is, but it is more than that. It asks how Columbine happened—which was where a couple of boys went on a shooting spree, killing 12 students, a teacher and themselves—and discovers a pretty disturbing answer. Which is that it was an accident waiting to happen. The culture of violence that has permeated America over the centuries made it possible. Guns are both the effects and causes of that violence. The violence, or the paranoia associated with it, has driven citizens to own guns, and the guns themselves have raised the ante on violence. A violence that is ravaging as much the schools of America as the dwelling places of the peoples of the world.

At one point in "Bowling," Moore interviews an official of Lockheed Martin, the biggest weapons-maker in America, whose plant in Littleton is the town's main employer and whose logo is "We are Columbine." The official expresses shock that the Columbine shooting could happen in America, asking, "Why would kids do this?"

Moore asks him if it is not possible that the kids who see their parents go to work building missiles at Lockheed do not think there's any difference between the mass destruction those weapons wreak and the one that happened at Columbine High School. The official is aghast. The missiles they make, he says, are made for defense. "We don't get irritated with somebody, and just 'cause we're mad at them drop a bomb, shoot at them, or fire a missile at them."

Next follows (to the tune of "What a Wonderful World," sung by Louis Armstrong) a long list of what America does when it "gets irritated with somebody." Among the more recent ones:

"1981: Reagan administration trains and funds 'Contras,' 30,000 Nicaraguans die; 1982: US gives millions in aid to Saddam Hussein for weapons to kill Iranians; 1983: White House secretly gives Iran weapons to kill Iraqis; 1989: Manuel Noriega, Panama president and CIA agent, disobeys orders from Washington, US invades Panama and removes Noriega, 3,000 Panamanians die; 1991 till Iraq war: American planes bomb Iraq on a weekly basis, UN estimates 500,000 Iraqi children die from bombing and sanctions; 2000-2001: US gives Taliban-ruled Afghanistan $245 million in 'aid'; 9/11: Bin Laden uses his expert CIA training to murder 3,000 Americans."

Americans were at least more introspective during the third anniversary of 9/11, mourning their dead with less strident calls for their government to bomb their tormentors back to the Stone Age. But there were those, notably America's leaders, who continued to talk about the threat posed by those who hate the American way of life. Pray, who are those who hate the American way of life? As Arundrathi Roy put it in an essay shortly after 9/11, who can possibly hate the American athletes who have shown such dazzling feats of physical striving? Who can possibly hate the American novelists and poets who have shown the world such dazzling feats of the imagination? Who can possibly hate America itself which has bequeathed to the world the democratic ideal, or the unrelenting quest for it?

You ask those same questions and you are bound to get only one answer: George W. Bush and company themselves. They hate the American way of life, if by that is meant the way of life proposed by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain and Martin Luther King. The way of life that is resolutely libertarian and dedicated to freedom—other people's as much as one's own.

Americans may look all they want for the causes of 9/11 in the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of Iraq, but they will not find the answers there. The causes of 9/11 are not outside, they are within. At the very least, that is because 9/11 is the inevitable consequence of policies that have wreaked more 9/11s upon the world—i.e. the partial list above—before ever that date, or epithet, or incantation, was invented. Chalmers Johnson used the word "blowback" to describe it (that is the title of his book), the consequences, often unwitting, of America's global policies on America itself. Which are not unlike something blowing up in one's face. 9/11 easily qualifies as a "blowback," the direct effect of American policies toward the Middle East. There's a simpler way to put it, one most people, including Americans, will understand: What goes around comes around.

At the very most, that is so because the causes of 9/11 are the same as the causes of Columbine. They reside in the culture of violence that has America in its grip, a culture of violence that is absent in neighboring Canada for example. The residents of a Canadian city just across the river from Detroit do not even lock their doors and windows when they leave the house. Certainly, they do not build arsenals to defend their homes and property. It is a culture that has grown out of paranoia about strangers coming to rape and pillage, which has spawned more paranoia about outsiders coming to extirpate and annihilate. It is a culture that says it's all right when you get irritated with somebody to just drop a bomb at him, or shoot at him, or fire a missile at him.

Kids who bowl at Columbine tend to learn that lesson pretty quick. So do terrorists who howl in Palestine.

9/11 happened in the American heartland. That is so in more ways than one.

Bitter elections killed political civility

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IT doesn't make much sense to talk about a political "honeymoon" in the wake of the May 2004 elections. The word does not catch the substance of political reality left by the elections. It is ill-used in the context of the last elections.

The May elections were the most acrimonious we have had since the Edsa Revolt. The last elections were bitterly contested and marred by accusations of widespread cheating. In that poisoned atmosphere, civility in politics wilted and became a casualty.

The 2004 elections may have been the benchmark for the demise of civility in Philippine elections. In the 1992 elections, Fidel Ramos won by getting a narrow 24 percent of the national vote. There were charges of cheating, but these did not leave an enduring hostility that prevented his defeated rivals from coming to terms with his election. In the 1998 elections, cheating was not an issue because of the overwhelming mandate that Joseph Estrada won.

In talking in traditional terms, such as "post-election honeymoon," we tend to ignore the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo won a regular term against a background of strife that scarcely permitted civility to survive. Her first term was an offspring of the strife fostered by the impeachment trial of Estrada and the resulting Edsa II that toppled him from the presidency. From the nature of that turbulent succession, it couldn't be expected that President Arroyo would enjoy a "honeymoon." Her legitimacy was very much in question during her first presidency. Her legitimacy, despite the election results in 2004, has not been accepted by some of her rivals. Thus, getting her legitimacy accepted is a key issue that the President needs to confront and put to rest in her second presidency.

This nagging legacy of disputed legitimacy is reflected by the Social Weather Stations opinion survey of Aug. 5 to 22. The survey, taken barely three months after she took her oath of office, shows a decline in Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating. Her net satisfaction rating was +12 percent, down from +26 percent in June and 30 percent in March. By contrast, Presidents Corazon Aquino, Ramos and Estrada enjoyed high net ratings (on the level of +60) during the first few quarters after they took office.

These findings have led the SWS to conclude that the public has not given Ms Arroyo the "post-election victory honeymoon" enjoyed by her three predecessors. The more significant finding is that it shows, according to the SWS, a "very strong relationship between dissatisfaction with the President and the suspicion of cheating in the elections."

This relationship is based on the survey results showing that among those who believed cheating took place in the elections, 63 percent were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo and only 23 percent were satisfied. On the other hand, among those who believed her opponents were "probably not cheated," 60 percent were satisfied and only 20 percent were dissatisfied. The belief of cheating is strong with Fernando Poe Jr. and running mate, Loren Legarda.

The survey found that 23 percent believed Poe and Legarda were "definitely cheated" and 32 percent said they were "probably cheated," indicating a total of 55 percent doubted the official election results that showed Ms Arroyo trounced Poe by more than one million votes.

On the other hand, the survey showed that 24 percent believed Poe and Legarda were "probably not cheated" and 17 percent said they were "definitely not cheated," indicating that 41 percent accepted the election results, fewer than the 51 percent who did not.

What the surveys results really tell us is that there is a lingering perception of cheating, a perception that has not waned, and that suggests a strong undercurrent of refusal by a large section of the population to acknowledge her legitimacy. This probably is the message that the administration cannot ignore.

The SWS seemed to be overstating its case when it tried to establish a "very strong relationship between dissatisfaction with the President and suspicion of cheating in the election." This link is tenuous and may be questioned. The survey was taken three months after the elections. While the SWS has produced evidence of a continuing and stubborn perception of cheating, especially among Poe and Legarda partisans, this cannot be the only explanation for the decline in Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating. A lot of other variables (which the SWS did not take into account) may have something to do with the dissatisfaction. The survey emphasized past grievance and did not measure post-election attitudes. For example, the concern over the fiscal deficit heightened after the elections. Public attitude toward how the administration has addressed the issue may account for the level of dissatisfaction.

In measuring levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction, political reality can be distorted by ignoring the context of issues that make the public dissatisfied. Focusing solely on the perception of cheating encourages the grievances of election losers to fester and contributes to the atmosphere that does not make a political honeymoon possible.

In any case, the last elections opened a new chapter in political competition characterized by the demise of civility. The administration and the public should stop thinking of the "political honeymoon" as a magic formula for a successful and effective presidency. Delivering results offers a better chance for gaining legitimacy than waiting for a honeymoon to happen. The message of the survey is that the administration should create its own opportunities to get things done. Sore losers cannot be allowed to determine what should make the public satisfied or dissatisfied.

Righting injustices in health

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT was certainly a startling sight, that of nurses and other health workers of the Philippine General Hospital showing off their bald pates, with "P3000," the across-the-board salary increase they are demanding from government, painted on their nearly naked skulls.

Jossel Ebesate, president of the All UP Workers Union in Manila, said their shaved heads "should call attention to the plight of health workers in the country (who are) going bald (or losing their hair) in thinking of means to make ends meet."

Actually, the PGH nurses and workers needn't have shaved their heads if they only wanted the Filipino public to awaken to their plight. The massive exodus of nurses, doctors, therapists and lab technicians for brighter futures abroad already underscores the less-than-ideal environment for health care providers here.

But the PGH protest also underscores the basic problem of inequity and injustice that lies at the root of our health system. And, through no fault of their own, the PGH workers are part of that skewed system.

During a roundtable discussion on a legislative agenda based on the Millennium Development Goals, former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez spoke on the need for health sector reform. There are, he said, "existing imbalances" in health resource allocation. "There is an overemphasis on high technology curative measures through the tertiary-care (hospital) system," he said, and much less emphasis on public health measures and basic, preventive care.

Almost 80 percent of health expenses, said Romualdez, go to the maintenance of hospitals, with the remaining 20 percent to public health which affects a far larger number of people.

* * *

PUT another way, said Romualdez, a mere 30 percent of government resources are spent to look after 70 percent of the population, that is, the majority of Filipinos who do not need hospitalization or cannot afford it, if ever.

Previous administrations, including him during his stint at the DOH, said Romualdez, had tried to "bite the bullet" and shift the resource allocation patterns. But due to many factors, hospitals continue to eat up a large proportion of the health budget, he said. One factor mentioned was the common misconception among local officials and legislators that a "good" health program meant the building of more hospitals that are better appreciated by voters than such an amorphous concept as "public health."

Hard as it is to believe, the linchpin of the national health system, are not the doctors, nurses and hospital workers such as those protesting at the PGH. While they are important and even crucial, the people most responsible for delivering health care at the grass-roots level are the barangay health workers, who receive minimal training and hardly any recognition, and are considered unpaid "volunteers" but expected to provide public health care information and services to their communities.

One of Romualdez's recommended measures has proven controversial, and this is to cut off public hospitals from the government lifeline, and make them dependent on their own income for survival. This surely will raise hackles among hospitals workers, such as those at the PGH, but, having already dramatized their plight, perhaps they could give deeper thought to the plight of the health situation in the country in general.

* * *

A COMMENDABLE project is the plan of the Unifem Philippine Committee, chaired by Erlinda Panlilio with Beng Puyat as president, to adapt four cases in the book "Nightmare Journeys," which I authored and which tells the stories of Filipino women survivors of sex trafficking, into a comic book in Filipino.

The comic book, says Panlilio, will be given away to poor communities that are currently the target of illegal recruiters on the prowl for women to be trafficked here and abroad for purposes of prostitution.

Tony Hidalgo of Milflores Publishing, publisher of the book, has contacted award-winning fictionist in Filipino Ramon "Mes" de Guzman for the translation. De Guzman has won four Palanca awards for his scripts and has recently been given an NCCA grant for the completion of his first novel.

The comic book illustrator will be Raul "Iggy" Rodriguez who has done a number of comic books in Filipino and won the grand prize in the drawing category of the latest Art Association of the Philippines competition.

Unifem's initial plan, said Panlilio, is to publish 5,000 copies of the comic book to be printed in full color, at an estimated cost of P360,000. But for these ambitious and socially worthy plans to come to fruition, sponsors will have to be found. Those interested in partnering with Unifem on the comic book on trafficking may get in touch with either Panlilio or Puyat or any Unifem committee member for the details.

* * *

WOMENLEAD, a feminist legal advocacy group, is spearheading, for the Alternative Law Groups Inc., a Policy Conference to be held next Monday, Sept. 20, from 1-4 p.m. at the South Wing of the Batasan Complex. Lawyers and legal scholars from ALG, a coalition of 15 legal advocacy organizations, will be presenting to members of the 13th Congress their six-point policy agenda which includes: reproductive health care, juvenile justice, national land use policy, amendments to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and Emancipation Patents, amendments to the labor law, and local sectoral representation. The agenda, based on social justice and human rights, was crafted in consultation with lawmakers, NGO networks and basic sectors.

Co-sponsoring the conference are the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), Task Force LSR, People's ALARM and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).

Vision of a Golden Age

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST week, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas bigwigs and the "usual suspects" invited to cultural events gathered at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila for the launching of "Ginto: History Wrought in Gold" by Ramon N. Villegas.

While waiting for the program to begin, I noticed Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil going over the smaller, illustrated catalogue of the BSP gold collection that was distributed to guests. From the knowing smile that formed at the side of her lips, I could guess what she was looking for. She whispered, "Do you know which ones are the penis implements [described by Antonio Pigafetta in his account of the 1521 Magellan expedition]?"

I pointed to the page with barter rings, and as we surveyed the various sizes, we both smiled. Later, I pointed out other intriguing items that had no clear decorative or utilitarian purpose. Looking at pre-colonial gold reminded me of a society matron who wore what I presumed to be pre-colonial sex tools on her ears as earrings.

The current news is so depressing it was really pleasant to look back to an age when Filipinos had fun without Catholic guilt, to a vanished pre-colonial past that Rizal and other writers have painted as a "Golden Age." Now we have this new book by Villegas to help us appreciate the BSP gold collection even more.

When people ask me to point out something or some time in our past that will make young Filipinos proud of their heritage, I tell them to visit the BSP gold collection. Unfortunately, the pride quickly turns to shame. In these days of fiscal crisis, when we look back to Magellan's descriptions of an abundance of gold, we start to wonder, yet again, what has happened to us. Why have we deteriorated in the past five centuries? The answer should be in our history, but the Villegas book begins with this story:

"In 1981, a cache of prehistoric gold was accidentally uncovered by a bulldozer operator known only as 'Berto,' in sitio Magruyong, San Miguel town, near Tandag, Surigao del Sur. He was moving part of a 30-foot high hill, filling in marshy ground to define an irrigation channel. He noticed glinting metal flying into the air with each sweep of the shovel. Worried that he might have hit ore or buried wreckage which could damage the equipment, he idled the motor and went down to investigate. The glinting metal turned out to be gold jewelry. He grabbed a sack, and stuffed it with as much as he could, not even bothering to turn off the bulldozer. The other workers saw him and started to claw away at the soil.

"As darkness fell, residents in the area went to investigate why the bulldozer was left running. The story got out. Within days. Hundreds of treasure hunters were digging up the site.

"Berto had gone to a priest whom he trusted. And who eventually accompanied him to Manila. They hailed a cab, and told the driver they wanted to go to where antique shops were. The driver, sensing them to be hicks, took them for a ride, but in the end deposited them in Ermita. By luck, they ended up with an old hand at excavated material, who was able to deal the pieces.

"The accidental find consisted of not less than 15 and up to 30 kilograms in total. The retrievers divided some of the loot simply by hacking them in half. Pieces were sold to scrap gold dealers. The more knowledgeable sold pieces to antique dealers and collectors."

What I find amusing is that the present Villegas book opens with a quote from his 1983 work, "The Philippine Jewelry Tradition" (Volume III of the beautiful Kayamanan Series published by the BSP). After two decades we are very much where we started with a story that borders on urban legend. We don't even know Berto's name or what became of him. Did he, as all fairy tales end, "live happily ever after"?

We have not spoken to anyone who was there during the "discovery" in 1981, so how will we know why and how all that gold got there in the first place? The site was not systematically excavated by trained archaeologists, thus associated materials that were with the gold were discarded.

This has been the sad fate of our pre-colonial history. In the last 50 years, so much porcelain has been excavated and sold in our antique shops, leading to the destruction of archaeological sites and further obliterating a past that could provide perspective to our present.

All we have now are the gold artifacts in the BSP that were saved for the nation by former Central Bank Governor Jaime C. Laya who convinced the Monetary Board to acquire these at a time when they were surfacing in Manila antique shops from the south. If these came out today, one wonders where they would have ended up.

Villegas is of the opinion that 30 percent of the so-called Surigao treasure was purchased by the BSP, 40 percent is in private collections, and the rest irretrievably lost because they had been melted.

The BSP gold collection as it stands today can still be studied scientifically. That is, if we are willing to sacrifice some of the artifacts to determine the purity of the gold and how this was achieved. Will there be a way to date these artifacts scientifically rather than just guessing based on style and/or associated artifacts uncovered with them? At the very least, these artifacts provide us in the depressed present a vision of a past Golden Age.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Alalay'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I HAD offered a friend of mine a ride to her obstetrician for a prenatal check-up. Imagine my surprise when I got into my car and discovered it was full: besides my friend, there was her brother, a male cousin and a male friend of the brother. "So, who's the pregnant one?" I quipped.

In retrospect, I really shouldn't have been surprised. Whether it's going off to see a movie, or to the market, or even to the toilet, we're always looking for someone to go with us. Conversely, we're always getting offers to be escorted: "*Sama ako.* (Let me go with you)."

All this is part of the *alalay* institution. Curiously, the word originally referred to a prop or mechanical support, as well as to the care or gentleness with which we carry something. These days, it means all that, as well as the person who gives the support or care. I'd say that it's this system that prepared us so well to become caregivers to the world.

Hyper-social folks

Why are the *alalay* and *bantay* systems so entrenched in our society? On the surface, it seems to reflect our congeniality. We're a hyper-social lot, hating to be alone, and we presume everyone else shares that fear.

There may be pragmatic reasons as well to this sociality, dating way back to a risk-laden past, especially around travel. Trips were long, and fraught with dangers, real (such as bandits) and imagined (the many supernatural denizens). Under those circumstances, only the foolhardy would have ventured on a trip without an *alalay*.

Maybe I shouldn't have said "risk-laden past"; even today, we'd think twice about going off alone in our urban jungles, still swarming with bandits and assorted flying and crawling creatures of the night. And for many of our overseas workers, the long goodbyes with each deployment reminds us that they face as many uncertainties as our ancestors did two or three centuries ago. Again, there's always comfort knowing a loved one goes off to work in Saudi, with someone we know.

The *alalay* is there for all kinds of difficult situations. Note how government offices are often filled with people because many Filipinos find our bureaucracies, and the red tape, to be so daunting that they bring people with them to help decipher the forms, or to provide moral support during the long wait.

Ultimately though, the numerous *alalay* and *bantay* are there to validate social ties, whether to say, "I'm being the filial child" or "Hey, I'm your loyal employee." It's not just younger people accompanying the elderly. I know many teenagers get truly embarrassed when their parents insist on accompanying them to enroll in schools, for example.

Of course, the more cynical among us will say, too, that the *alalay* is there to validate social ties during crucial times, such as a serious illness, as a subtle way of reminding a dying relative to make sure the will is in place, with all faithful relatives accounted for.

Under the bed

The *alalay* system isn't all that great though, sometimes creating serious problems. We've seen that at airports, with entire clans and *barangay* insisting on sending off someone, finally forcing our airport officials to prohibit well-wishers—for both departing and returning passengers—from actually entering airport terminals. In this terrorist-paranoid age, imagine what would happen without those limits on well-wishers: flights wouldn't be able to take off given the delays with screening thousands of these *alalay*.

Hospital administrators, too, complain about the endless *alalay* patients get, a plague that starts as early as the time when the patient is being admitted, accompanied by any number ranging from five to a dozen people storming the emergency room, each one volunteering his or her version of the patient's illness or accident, while getting in the way of doctors, nurses and other patients.

Once admitted, the bevy of relatives and friends accompanies the patient to the room or ward, each one offering to be a *bantay*, literally a watcher, who will stay overnight. Most hospitals claim to limit the number of *bantay* to one per patient, but have no choice but to pretend they don't see the extra ones who insist on staying. I've actually seen some of them climbing into the patient's bed, or under the bed, to spend the night.

The *alalay* and *bantay* claim they're there to support the patient, but can end up aggravating the patient's condition. Mild illnesses turn into major catastrophes as the *alalay* whip themselves into emotional frenzies, sometimes getting more hysterical than the patient, speculating on what the patient should have done to avoid the accident or heart attack, or recounting stories about whose relative once had this exact same disease and how they died in the hands of Dr. So-and-so in this very hospital, why, in this very emergency room. Sometimes I suspect the patients go into shock or into a coma to shut out the *alalay*.

The idle and the 'uzi'

Alas, the *alalay* is sometimes nothing more than another variation of the *uzi*, short of *usisero* or the nosey kibitzer. We just have too many people with nothing better to do so they'll tag along anywhere, any time. Sometimes it's all out of curiosity but other times, especially for the swelling ranks of unemployed, becoming an *alalay* or *bantay* may even have its benefits, including free transportation, board and lodging. Choose the right benefactor and you can see the world as an *alalay*.

But whether we're dealing with the idle or the *uzi* or someone truly concerned, we do need to rethink this whole *alalay* bit because it's a system that can backfire. Overseas Filipino workers actually postpone visits home because they say it's become too expensive; the airfare is minimal but they dread having to spend on *pasalubong* for all the instant *alalay* who will be at the airport waiting to escort them home.

With patients, a family may already have enough problems looking for ways to pay the hospital bills without having to be burdened with more responsibilities of feeding all the *alalay* and *bantay*, including many who are just totally useless.

Hospitals are finding ways to cut down on this *alalay* business. At the emergency room of the new Medical City hospital, for example, families are politely told that only one *alalay* is allowed per patient, to fill out forms and to answer questions from attending physicians. All other *alalay* are ushered to a special waiting area still within the emergency room but safely sequestered from the patients.

Sometimes the *alalay* flock in because they think the patient wants them around, so it helps if the patient or the immediate family requests well-wishers to visit only after the patient has been discharged from the hospital, and even then, it doesn't hurt to ask that they phone in first before dropping by.

Would that be impolite? I don't think so. It's time we moved away from the *alalay* as nuisance, back to the original intent of support and caring.

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Root cause of fiscal crisis

THE FISCAL morass the country is now in can be attributed to only two basic problems: the public debt and the tax effort.

The budget deficit is not the real problem; it is only an effect of the ballooning debt. The government incurs a yearly deficit due to the high budget allocation for debt service (P543 billion this year and P646 billion for 2005).

Regarding the public debt, we are on the right track in religiously paying interest and principal every year. The debt is something we have to live with since it is already there. The only way to mitigate this problem is to keep on paying until it goes down to a manageable level. At the rate we are going, the present debt of P4.83 trillion could be liquidated in about 20 years, if and only if the government stops altogether its borrowing binge.

So the first logical recourse is to stop borrowing to fund the deficit. Additional borrowing should only be limited to funding very vital projects which are income-generating. But how then do we fund the deficit since only 29 percent of the national budget is left to run the bureaucracy?

The question leads to the second problem: the tax effort, or the amount of taxes collected as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Data culled from the INQUIRER show that our tax effort in 1997 was 17.0 percent of GDP. Then it drastically dropped by 1.4 percentage points to 15.6 percent in 1998 and gradually settled to 12.3 percent last year.

A study made by a World Bank economist, V. Tanzi, in 1987 revealed statistical evidence that tax efforts rise with per capita GNP. In his data from 86 countries, he showed that for a per capita GNP of $850-$1,300, the tax effort range is 14.0 percent to 22.5 percent. Interpolating the value for the Philippines, which has a per capita GNP of $1,100 in 2003, our tax effort should be about 16.75 percent. The present revenue collection therefore is short by 4.25 percent based on the projected 12.5 percent tax effort for 2004. Just how much is 4.25 percent of GDP (roughly P5,000)? The shortfall is P212 billion which even exceeds our present deficit.

Another study for the period 1998-2002 revealed that annual leakages from income taxes and value added taxes amounted to an average of P127 billion. This was supported by a government study in 2002, which claimed that the total tax loss would reach P243 billion if other taxes are included. In these studies, it was shown that corporations and professionals contributed 95 percent of the leakages. Therefore, by simply increasing our tax effort, we could wipe out the deficit with one fell swoop.

In sum, for the country to eventually extricate itself from debt, the government must:

1. Stop borrowing to fund the deficit while continuing the debt servicing.
2. Launch an all-out tax collection campaign to restore the tax effort to the ideal 16.75 percent level.

—FERMIN T. ROTEA,
215 S.B.Cabahug St.,
Mandaue City,

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Rice crisis also looms

WITH TAX and population control issues hogging the headlines, another crucial one with disastrous consequences has unfortunately been sidelined—the imminent rice crisis.

The Congressional Planning and Budget Department (CPBD) issued a legislative policy prescription called "Enhancing Agricultural Competitiveness." This said prescription was filed last month under House Bill 273. This is aimed to abolish the rice stabilization function of the National Food Authority and remove the quantitative restriction on rice importation, even as the law clearly provides that the NFA has the sole authority to import rice for security stocks. In simple terms, this proposal will allow big private rice businesses to wrestle control over volumes of rice imports and manipulate market prices at the expense of poor consumers and small farmers. The privatization of rice importations is ill-advised.

The CPBD prescription actually resurrects a legislative proposal junked several times in Congress. It insists on a strategy of agriculture sector growth within the framework of rice trade liberalization.

The national daily consumption of rice is 27,000 metric tons per day. Take note that the trend is increasing world rice prices while global supply is getting scarce. China continues to stockpile and, within the year, will most probably deplete the rice supply in the region, leaving us with no other source of affordable supply.

So heaven forbid, but once a deficiency in the government's rice buffer stock occurs, it will pave the way for unscrupulous private traders with massive volumes of rice stocks to dominate the market. And then we will soon experience a precarious stock position similar to the 1995 rice crisis, during which corrupt traders shrewdly amassed tons of rice and jacked up its prices forcing poor Filipinos to stand on long queues just to buy rice.

Needless to say, our imported rice allocation for security stock is at risk. And even if the private sector manages to bring in the big volume of rice imports for security stocks, the trading and disposal of these security stocks will depend largely upon their cunning discretion.

There is a compelling reason for us to prevent a rice crisis from setting in. Rice is the staple food of Filipinos. But it is also a political commodity, and any erratic distortion of supply, price and demand will cause volatility in the social order.

The policy on rice trade liberalization runs counter to the slogan of the International Year of Rice—"Rice is life." Rice trade liberalization is certainly not the solution. The government should instead establish a strong presence in the rice market by strengthening the NFA and the Department of Agriculture, restore government regulation over import volumes and implement a genuine rice self-sufficiency program.

—ROMAN A. SANCHEZ,
national president,
National Food Authority-Employees' Association (NFA-EA),
101 Matimyas Bldg.,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.,
Quezon City

RP asked to support Taiwan's UN bid

IN SEPTEMBER this year, The Republic of China (Taiwan) will again seek membership in the United Nations at the 59th session of the General Assembly. And as it has done so 11 times in the past, the People's Republic of China is expected to once again block Taiwan's bid to rejoin the international body, on the ground that there is only "one China."

But is there only "one China"?

The reality today is that there is Communist China, a country with more than 1.2 billion people whose government, led by the Communist Party, keeps a tight lid on all political dissent and suppresses human rights even as it allows free enterprise so it can become a regional economic power.

And there is Taiwan whose 23 million people, who have been ruling themselves since 1912, have transformed their territory into one of the most economically advanced countries in Asia, through a government that fully respects human rights and allows democracy to flourish.

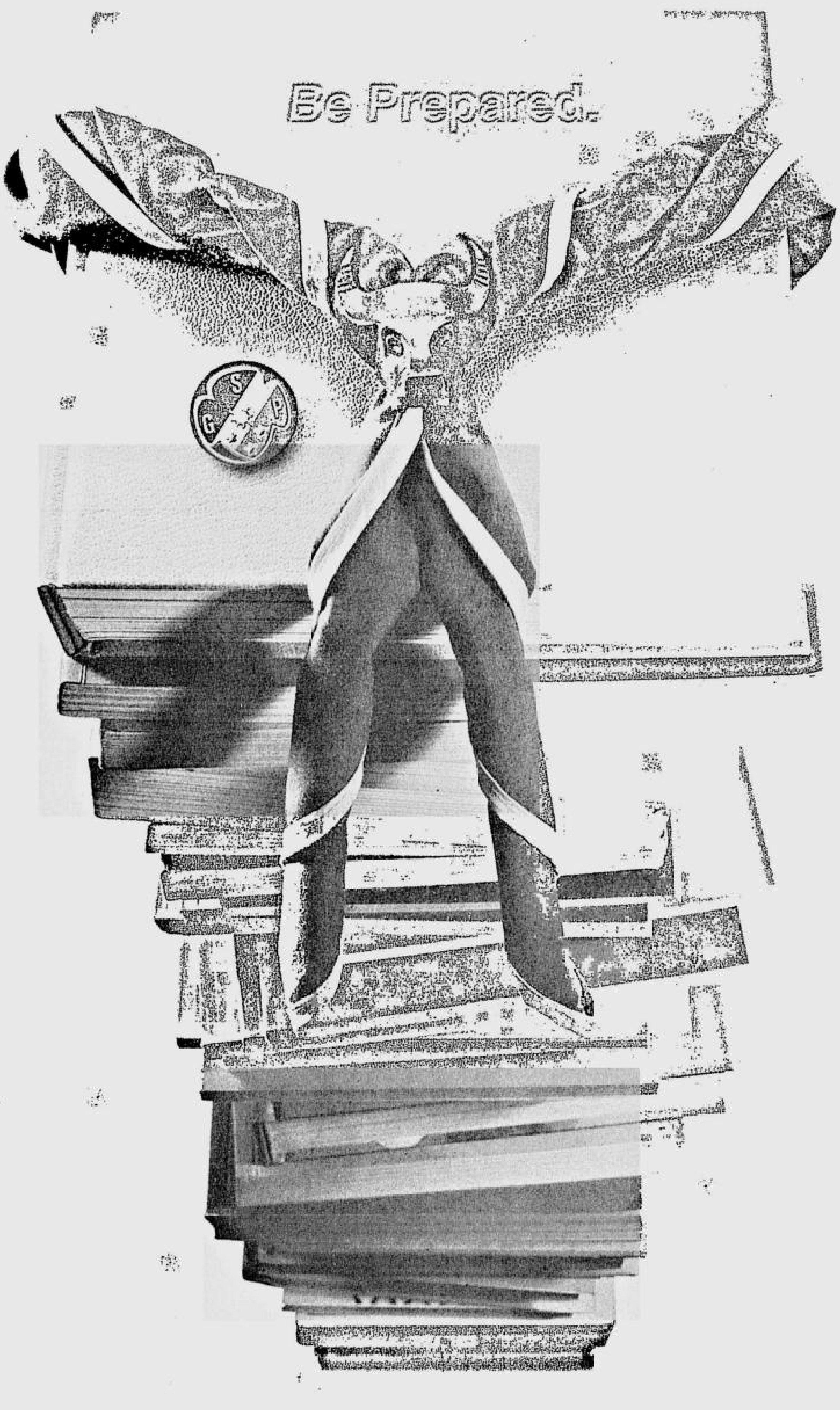
For all intents and purposes, therefore, Taiwan is a free and peace-loving nation that should be left alone to chart its own destiny.

Beijing's intransigent "one-China" policy has become less and less believable as the international community recognizes its irrational and illogical character. Fifteen countries from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, recently submitted to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan a proposal to allow Taiwan's membership. They cite the right of the 23 million Taiwanese to be represented in the UN system. These countries likewise point out that Taiwan's exclusion from the UN is unjust because it contradicts the principle of universal participation that the UN upholds. They are thus asking the UN to stop its "policy of political apartheid" against Taiwan, which is willing to carry out its obligations under the UN Charter because it adheres to the UN ideals of international peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

The move by these 15 countries to ask the UN to accept Taiwan into its fold is truly laudable in the face of Beijing's strong-arm and bullying tactics in the international arena. Recently, People's Liberation Army troops once again staged another military drive in the southern province facing Taiwan to simulate an invasion of the island. The war drills, coupled with shrill and hawkish rhetoric from the Chinese leaders, gave the distinct impression that Communist China is interested only in "reunification" even if it must wipe off Taiwan from the face of the earth with the more than 500 missiles it has targeted at the Taiwanese people.

Taiwan wants to gain membership in the UN because it wants to share its economic and social achievements with the rest of the world, particularly with the developing countries. We ask the Philippine government to show moral courage and the Filipino people to support Taiwan's bid for UN membership. Taiwan's reentry to the UN will be a step forward in our common quest for long-term peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

—ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
director, Information Division,
Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office, Low Rise Tower, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Pangasinan restores grand, old buildings

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Lingayen, Pangasinan

A "RETURN to heritage" wind is blowing over Pangasinan, with the provincial government and the private sector working hand in hand to restore historical buildings to their original grandeur.

The first to be restored, and probably the most appropriate as it is the seat of the provincial government, is the Capitol, a neoclassical building built during the term of Gov. Daniel Maramba between 1917 and 1918.

Gov. Victor Agbayani tapped the services of restoration architect Luis Mata, formerly connected with the Intramuros Administration and now teaching architecture at the University of the Philippines, to restore a capitol that is "faced with serious defacement and loss of historical value."

The project has been going on for a year now, and may take another year to complete, the governor said.

In another part of the capital town of Lingayen, another building, the Casa Real, is begging to be restored. The Casa Real, built in the 1850s, is the former capitol.

Agbayani formed the Pangasinan Task Force Museum in 2000 to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a museum and to identify a structure for the purpose.

Casa Real

Arabela Arcinue, one of the vice chairs of the task force, suggested that the Casa Real be restored to its original form and converted into a provincial museum.

The National Historical Institute declared the Casa Real a national historical landmark in 2002 but an official marker to formalize its status has yet to be put on the building.

The marker is important because the building is occupied by several national government and local offices, Arcinue said. "We need the landmark to enable us to ask the offices to transfer so we can start the restoration."

The Casa Real had been the seat of the provincial government until 1918, when the "new" capitol facing the Lingayen Gulf was built.

The vacated structure was used as an elementary school for three years before it housed two branches of the regional trial court and other offices.

Original materials

During World War II, Japanese soldiers gathered and tortured prisoners in the Casa Real. The building still carries its original materials but needs urgent repair.

"The still intact adobe walls, ornate ceilings and wooden flooring of the second floor are mute witnesses to the history of the people as well of the province. If the building could only talk, it would say, 'Please restore and preserve me for posterity. My story is your province's history'," Arcinue said.

The original plans of the present capitol were missing and only a photograph of the building was available at the Filipinas Heritage Library of the Ayala Foundation.

The Ayala Museum has also been keeping a photograph of the building when it was inaugurated on Feb. 10-19, 1919. The inauguration "featured an agricultural and industrial fair, a carnival, parades and benefit balls," documents showed.

"The impressive provincial capitol (is) among the notable neo-classical style buildings in the Philippines," said Mata, who has researched on the building's history.

Construction of the building was supervised by Ralph Harrington Duane, a consulting architect of the public works and highways department during the American period. The structure is characterized by the use of columns, entablatures (structures supported by columns) and pediments.

Imposing columns

It also features "imposing and colossal" columns typical of American architecture that "stands for democracy and strength of the government," Mata said.

Sculptures of a lion and eagles are found in the building. Written on the upper portion is the birth year (1918) and a message on its construction ("by the government for the administration of a civil state... promoting life, liberty and the pursuit of pursuit of happiness").

More sculptures of eagles are perched on pedestals near the stairways, as if "guarding" the building.

The three-story building sits atop a podium. Its spacious rooms have high ceilings and large windows.

The building is located in front of the historic Lingayen Gulf, where American Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his troops landed on Jan. 9, 1945.

But accounts from local elders said the capitol could have been in ruins when MacArthur landed there because the structure was bombed by the Japanese during the war.

During the administration of Gov. Enrique Braganza (1946-51), the capitol, together with the schoolhouses and municipal building of Lingayen, was restored to its original grandeur through the Philippine Rehabilitation Act passed by the US Congress in 1946.

Serious loss

Because of natural aging, neglect and numerous alterations, the provincial capitol is now facing "a serious defacement and loss of cultural and historical value," Mata said. It would further deteriorate if it is not properly conserved, he said.

The provincial government has more offices and employees now and additional "floors (mezzanines)" were built to house them. Air-conditioning units are mounted on walls around the building and the original wooden windows have been changed with glass windows, he said.

Air from the sea has also damaged the iron and wood parts of the building, Mata said.

PANGASINAN/ A18

THE PROVINCIAL Capitol in Lingayen town

RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Visayas, Mindanao, magbantay para sa tamang bilang!

TEXTBOOK COUNT 2

Schedule and allocation of textbooks per region

Region/Division		No. of Recipient Elem.	No. of School Districts	No. of High Schools	GRAND TOTAL TX/TM/LP	Delivery Schedule
GRAND TOTAL- ZONE 3		8,522	563	1,383	2,728,397	
VI	TOTAL	3,058	201	523	1,119,352	
	Regional Office				4,242	Sept 20 - Oct 15
	Aklan	274	19	53	74,616	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Antique	423	22	44	111,094	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Iloilo	864	50	146	274,217	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Negros Occidental	556	39	114	210,054	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Capiz	389	18	38	138,721	Sept 27 - Oct 8
	Guimaras	87	8	15	34,196	Oct 4 - 6
	Passi City	32	2	5	12,626	Oct 4 - 6
	Iloilo City	49	7	14	45,519	Oct 4 - 8
	Bacolod City	44	7	20	62,564	Oct 4 - 8
	Cadiz City	51	4	11	20,808	Oct 4 - 8
	Silay City	27	4	10	17,171	Oct 4 - 8
	Roxas City	38	3	8	14,147	Oct 6 - 8
	Bago City	36	4	7	25,630	Oct 11 - 13
	San Carlos City	59	5	5	14,016	Oct 11 - 13
	Kabankalan City	56	3	18	24,947	Oct 11 - 15
	Sagay City	51	3	11	21,551	Oct 11 - 15
	La Carlota City	22	3	4	13,233	Oct 13 - 15
VII	TOTAL	2,616	170	508	886,060	
	Regional Office				3,444	Sept 20 - Oct 15
	Negros Oriental	486	23	64	169,229	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Bohol	836	52	106	148,798	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Cebu	869	60	198	290,518	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Lapu-Lapu City	43	4	22	39,393	Sept 27 - Oct 5
	Cebu City	67	10	38	97,455	Sept 27 - Oct 8
	Dumaguete City	18	2	6	11,319	Sept 29 - Oct 1
	Tagbilaran City	16	1	5	11,751	Oct 4 - 6
	Siquijor	56	3	14	12,140	Oct 4 - 8
	Toledo City	48	4	12	23,474	Oct 4 - 8
	Bais City	35	2	5	15,824	Oct 11 - 13
	Danao City	39	3	9	12,278	Oct 11 - 13
	Bayawan City	47	2	10	20,912	Oct 13 - 15
	Talisay City	20	2	9	16,020	Oct 13 - 15
	Tanjay City	36	2	10	13,505	Oct 13 - 15
VIII	TOTAL	2,848	192	352	722,985	
	Regional Office				1,602	Sept 20 - Oct 15
	Eastern Samar	371	25	44	94,370	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Northern Samar	428	30	52	77,179	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Samar	491	32	55	74,891	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Leyte	942	62	111	284,040	Sept 20 - Oct 1
	Southern Leyte	284	17	48	74,634	Sept 27 - Oct 5
	Calbayog City	107	7	10	19,012	Oct 4 - 6
	Ormoc City	74	4	8	24,980	Oct 4 - 6
	Tacloban City	34	6	8	35,377	Oct 6 - 8
	Biliran	117	9	16	36,900	Oct 11 - 15
GRAND TOTAL- ZONE 4		7,951	551	1,341	3,398,085	
IX	TOTAL	1,838	114	274	655,414	
	Regional Office				1,365	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Zamboanga del Norte	569	35	83	139,786	Oct 18 - 29
	Dapitan City	48	5	9	14,060	Oct 18 - 22
	Zamboanga del Sur	559	32	71	160,663	Oct 18 - 29
	Dipolog City	36	4	9	23,717	Oct 25 - 29
	Zamboanga Sibugay	369	16	52	123,123	Nov 2 - 15
	Pagadian City	60	5	14	34,742	Nov 2 - 08
	Zamboanga City	163	12	30	136,179	Nov 2 - 15
	Isabela City	34	5	6	21,779	Nov 9 - 15
X	TOTAL	1,832	132	227	715,307	
	Regional Office				2,100	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Misamis Oriental	351	24	45	131,522	Oct 18 - 29
	Lanao del Norte	236	24	26	80,636	Oct 21 - Nov 4
	Cagayan de Oro City	67	9	24	89,378	Oct 26 - Nov 4
	Misamis Occidental	263	15	21	48,256	Oct 28 - Nov 11
	Oroquieta City	41	4	7	14,073	Oct 28 - Nov 11
	Bukidnon	476	21	38	154,326	Nov 2 - 15
	Malaybalay City	57	3	5	29,171	Nov 2 - 15
	Valencia City	51	4	2	26,193	Nov 2 - 15
	Iligan City	76	13	23	64,290	Nov 2 - 15
	Gingoog City	67	4	9	20,353	Nov 4 - 8
	Ozamiz City	42	4	10	24,551	Nov 9 - 11
	Tangub City	51	3	8	14,081	"Nov 09 - 11 (Dist.), Oct 28 - Nov. 11 (HS)"
	Camiguin	54	4	9	16,377	Nov 9 - 15
XI	TOTAL	1,474	93	240	754,027	
	Regional Office				3,120	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Davao del Norte	147	9	31	71,236	Oct 18 - 29
	Island City of Samal	47	3	10	17,354	Oct 18 - 29
	Digos City	33	3	3	32,980	Oct 19 - 21
	Panabo City	42	3	7	27,398	Oct 20 - 22
	Compostela Valley	292	13	43	124,805	Oct 21 - Nov 4
	Davao del Sur	321	20	39	110,196	Oct 25 - Nov 8
	Tagum City	31	3	7	39,598	Oct 27 - 29
	Davao Oriental	290	19	42	99,928	Oct 29 - Nov 12
	Davao City	271	20	58	227,412	Nov 2 - 15
XII	TOTAL	1,377	112	264	695,584	
	Regional Office				1,125	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Cotabato	470	37	106	206,311	Oct 18 - 29
	Sarangani	195	8	25	76,356	Oct 20 - 28
	Kidapawan City	46	5	13	27,318	Oct 21 - 25
	South Cotabato	249	16	38	111,670	Oct 25 - Nov 8
	Sultan Kudarat	271	25	44	98,933	Oct 27 - Nov 10
	Tacurong City	24	5	5	17,895	Oct 27 - Nov 10
	General Santos City	57	8	21	87,032	Nov 2 - 10
	Cotabato City	24	5	8	39,283	Nov 9 - 11
	Koronadal City	41	3	4	29,661	Nov 11 - 15
XIII	TOTAL	1,430	100	238	471,463	
	Regional Office				1,257	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Agusan del Norte	171	13	29	55,002	Oct 18 - 29
	Surigao del Norte	238	18	47	67,526	Oct 20 - Nov 3
	Butuan City	98	9	16	55,235	Oct 22 - 28
	Agusan del Sur	379	19	50	127,121	Oct 25 - Nov 8
	Surigao City	63	4	14	19,290	Oct 27 - 29
	Surigao del Sur	335	22	54	99,783	Oct 29 - Nov 12
	Siargao	103	11	18	23,323	Nov 2 - 15
	Bislig City	43	4	10	22,926	Nov 11 - 15
ARMM	TOTAL			98	106,290	
	Regional Office				633	Oct 18 - Nov 15
	Tawi-Tawi			19	20,087	Oct 18 - 29
	Sulu			27	29,283	Oct 25 - Nov 8
	Basilan			22	14,662	Nov 2 - 15
	Maguindanao			30	41,625	Nov 2 - 15

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Pangasinan restores grand, old buildings

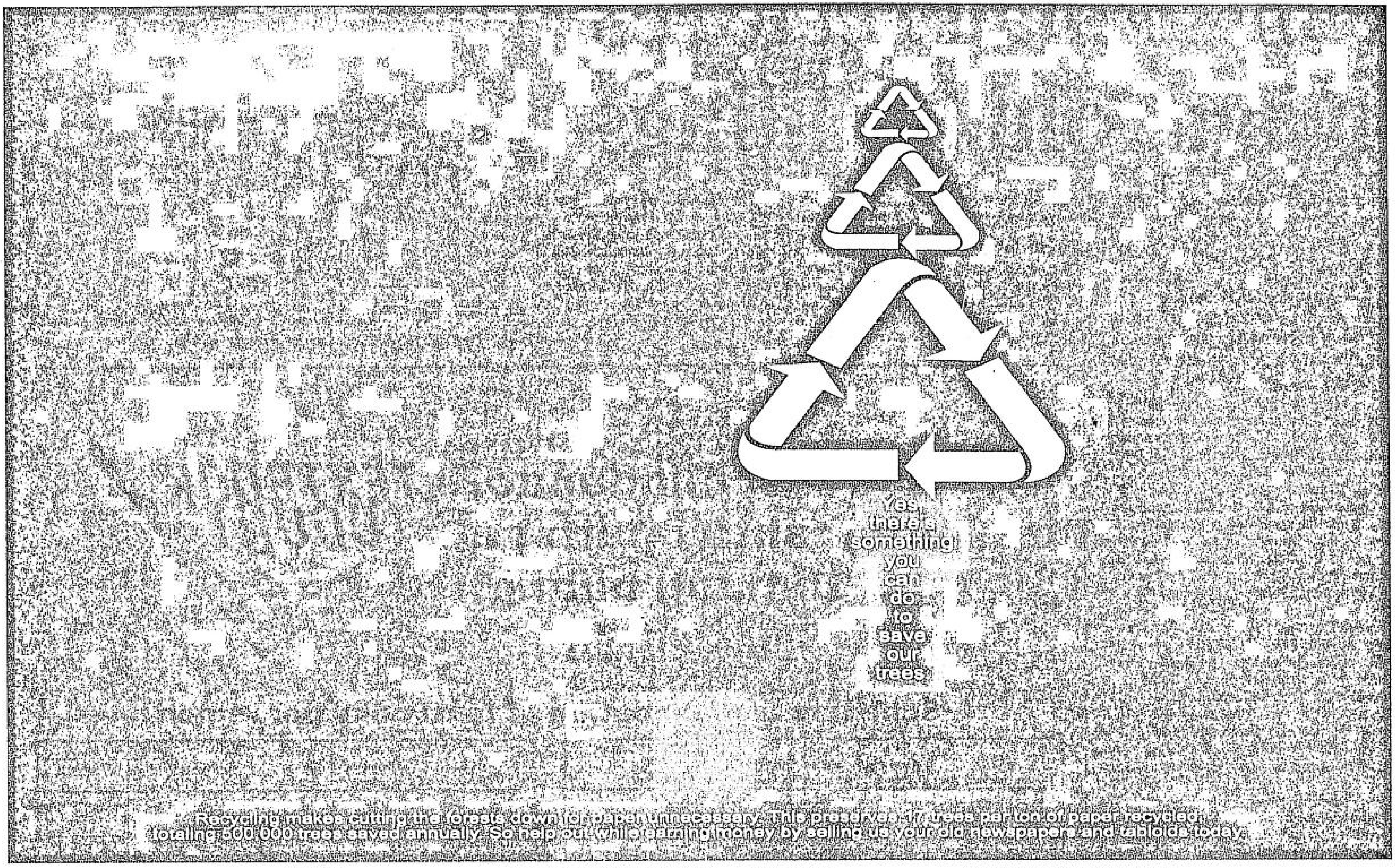
From page A17

"We are trying to recapture the original style and character of the heritage structure without compromising its functions. Instead, the building's design and function will be enhanced with minimum intervention," he added.

When the restoration is completed and the capitol is back to its original design and beauty, it will be another tourist come-on for the province, complementing the World War II memorabilia at the back of the building, provincial officials said.

Agbayani sad Casa Real would be the next structure that the provincial government would restore.

He said he had a "personal and sentimental" reason for restoring the provincial Capitol. He said his grandfather, Donato Agbayani, a carpenter from Ilocos Norte, was one of the workers who built it.



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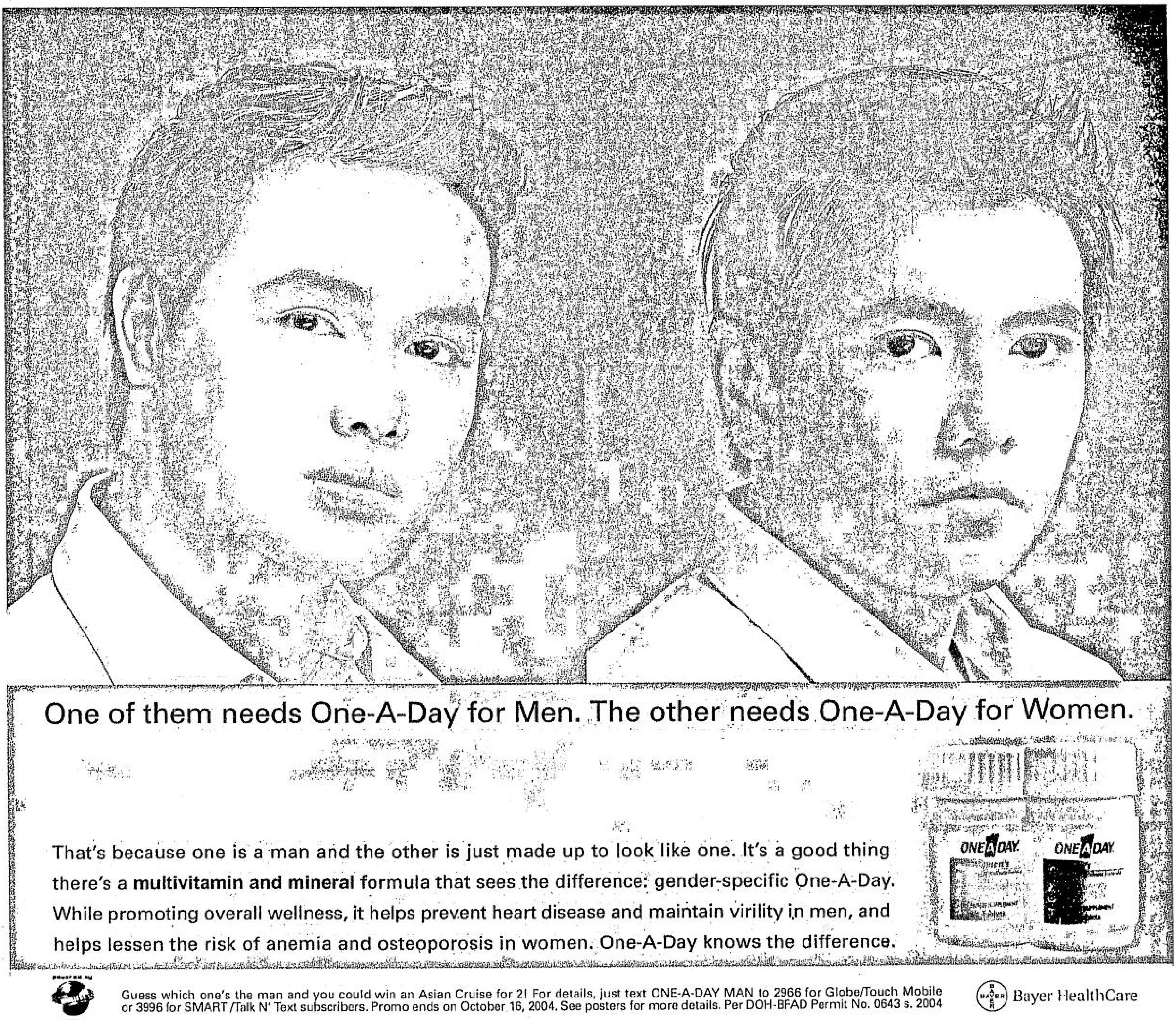

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A19

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225 NIA workers set for layoff appeal for separation benefits

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The weight of the fiscal crisis has come heavy on those who helped build and maintain the irrigation network in three provinces in Luzon.

At least 225 National Irrigation Administration employees due for retrenchment appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to set aside P50 million for them and what could be their last project.

In a manifesto they submitted to the President on Monday, the employees of the NIA's Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project (ARIIP) said the amount represented five-and-a-half months of their wages, salaries and benefits, including unpaid remittances to the Government Service Insurance System, Home Development Mutual Fund and PhilHealth.

It also included overhead expenses and balance of the rehabilitation work on the Agno River irrigation system that they operate alongside the lower Agno River irrigation system and Ambayoan-Dipalo River irrigation system.

All in all, these irrigation networks serve almost 34,000 hectares in 31 towns and cities in Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

The employees traced their layoff, described to be the "worst employment trouble" to hit NIA in almost 50 years, to the "abrupt decision" of NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras to "close" the ARIIP.

The project is the irrigation component of the San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project, an electricity-generating dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

The ARIIP, according to project reports, seeks to rehabilitate the three systems and build a regulating pond for the dam's excess water.

The project, estimated to cost P9.16 billion, is planned to irrigate 70,800 hectares.

In the same letter, the employees said ARIIP was given no allocation in the 2004 and 2005 budgets.

"Many of us do not have businesses, and are less than content with the meager earnings we receive in making both ends meet," they said in the eight-page manifesto.

"Much more, many of us would be short of the number of years of service to avail of the benefits from retirement plans of the government, and the chance of entering another government office would be slimmer and dimmer because of age requirements," they said.

Those who signed the manifesto belonged to the administrative, engineering, institutional development, equipment management and construction divisions of NIA.

Reports on the closure of the ARIIP prompted 98 irrigators' associations in the three Luzon provinces to air appeals for its continuation.

In a separate four-page manifesto, they said the improvement of irrigation facilities would boost rice and vegetable production. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Enormous,' cop says of job to solve mediamen's murders

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Solving the killings of Filipino journalists, already 55 since the restoration of democracy in 1986, is an "enormous" job, said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, incoming deputy chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"It is an enormous task because although there are some initial successes, there are many things to be done," Mendoza, who will also head the Task Force Newsman, said in Tuesday's turnover rites when he relinquished his post at the Pampanga police command here.

He said with "the nature and characteristics of fugitive killers, it's really hard to initiate manhunt and arrest operations against the suspects."

Mendoza said he would tap his media network as head of the task force formed to investigate and lead in the prosecution of suspected killers of journalists.

"It will really be a significant thing if the media sector will help and assist," he said.

Director General Edgardo Aglipay, Philippine National Police chief, has vowed to solve all murder cases that victimized journalists.

But Aglipay also acknowledged that putting the killers to justice had been slow. Since August, the suspects in the slaying of two journalists have been arrested, he said.

Guillermo Wapile, a former policeman and one of two suspected gunmen in the murder of Pagadian City radio commentator Edgar Damalerio, surrendered on Monday.

He surrendered after what police called "months of negotiations."

The major skills of Mendoza, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1978), are on counterinsurgency and intelligence operations.

Mendoza, even as chief of the Pampanga police, handled special research projects and proposals for the PNP.

These include subjects such as the Philippine Jihad Inc., the alliance between the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, combating terrorism, barangay screening system and retooling police criminal investigation.

His three-year stint in Pampanga led to a string of achievements that included a crackdown on counterfeit drugs, a Korean syndicate involved in credit card fraud, and on government agents behind several kidnappings of foreigners. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cebu taxi operators ask for ₱5 fare hike

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Taxi operators in Metro Cebu are seeking a P5 increase in flagdown rate to offset their losses brought about by the series of oil price adjustments.

The demand was contained in the petition, which was filed by the Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA) on Monday at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board office in Central Visayas (LTFRB-7).

But Richard Cabucos, MCTOA president, said he was not hopeful that their petition would be granted, considering that the LTFRB office in Manila has rejected a similar petition filed by the Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila (ATOMM).

The current flagdown rate of the taxicabs in Metro Cebu is P25 for the first 500 meters and P2 for the succeeding 300 meters and another P2 for every two minutes waiting time.

Jose Douglas Sanson, LTFRB regional legal officer, said MCTOA sought an increase in flagdown rate from P25 to P30 and from P2 to P2.50 for the succeeding 300 meters.

They also asked that the rate for every two minutes waiting time be increased by 50 centavos or from P2 to P2.50, he added.

Sanson said MCTOA sent the petition to the LTFRB office on Sept. 8 but it was formally accepted last Monday after the group paid P520 in filing fee.

He said the public hearing on the petition was set on Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. at the LTFRB regional office in Mandaue City.

Still, Cabucos remained pessimistic on the outcome of their petition. "What then can we expect here if (their petition) in Metro Manila was rejected," he said.

He said they would not mind if the LTFRB would only grant an increase in the flagdown rate and not in the succeeding meters and the waiting time.

Any increase will be helpful, he added, as most of their big operator-members are already forced to put half of their units on standby after their drivers decided to stop driving due to heavy losses following the series of oil price hikes.

Cabucos owns Taipan and Criselda taxi, which have 90 units but he claimed that half of these are on standby at his garage because no driver would rent them.

He said taxi operators in Metro Cebu dropped the rental of their units per day from P700 to P600 to cushion the impact of the oil price adjustments.

"But still the drivers are not enticed to continue driving. I don't know why," he added.

The MCTOA members are operating more than 2,000 taxi units or at least 60 percent of the total taxi units running in Metro Cebu area.

Philippine Association of Overweight and Obesity
MESSAGES

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
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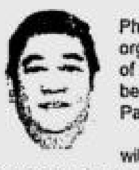


In behalf of the Board of Regents of the Philippine College of Physicians, may I convey our profound congratulations for the impeccable organization of your 1st Postgraduate Course and 10th Annual Convention of Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity on September 17-18, 2004 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Your efforts in holding this postgraduate and annual convention will certainly strengthen and reinforce the ongoing commitment of your organization in providing your members a continuing education attuned to the demands of this century.

To all participants, delegates and guests, our warm welcome to all of you. We are confident that much can be gained from the 2-day scientific meeting and annual convention. We wish you much success and all the best in your current and future endeavors.

17 September 2004, Pasay City.

Adrian C. Peña, MD, FPCP
President

Terror Alert : OBESITY!

Why did we choose this theme for this year's celebration of Obesity Prevention and Awareness Week? Because, nowadays, nothing can be more apt than to sound the alarm about this terror in our midst. Obesity is a terror – for it fawns other chronic and debilitating diseases, like diabetes mellitus, heart disease, pulmonary diseases, and the like.

It is estimated that 7% of the world's adult population are either overweight or obese. And the alarming fact is that the epidemic is creeping down to our children, in whom we now see more type 2 diabetes mellitus cases. Factors in the environment have been identified. What is now a harder job is to have these factors neutralized. In westernized societies, care for the obese accounts for 6% of the budget for health care. Developing countries can ill afford these expenses. Join us in this awareness and prevention campaign – fight the terror in our midst – OBESITY!

Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
President, PASOO

The theme of the 10th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO) is Terror Alert: Obesity. After 911, the world has become more watchful of terrorism of various forms. The unlawful or threatened use of force or violence can kill people; however, there is also a form of "terror" or "time-bomb" that can explode and endanger the life of many people, and this is OBESITY.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with more than 1 billion adults overweight - at least 300 million of them clinically obese. "Globesity" is taking over many parts of the world. If immediate action is not taken, millions will suffer from an array of serious health disorders.

We have invited Dr. Gauden Galea of WHO to speak during our convention. In addition to our local experts, we have also well known foreign lecturers like Professor Ian Caterson and Professor John Foreyt. The various topics on obesity include Worldwide Obesity Patterns, Hormones and Energy, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Risks, Psychological, Dietary and Pharmacological Management of Obesity. There will also be discussion on issues like Lo-Carb and Lo-Fat Diet, and The Fast Food Craze.

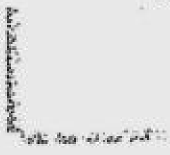
For the first time, PASOO this year also organizes a Post-graduate Course with an introductory lecture, Risk of Obesity – The Impact of Obesity on Health, by Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua.

An important activity of the Obesity Awareness and Prevention Week is the Fitness Walk spearheaded by Sanirose S. Orbeta to be held on September 19, 2004 in Quezon City.

Let us work together in prevention and control of obesity and its complications through education, research and advocacy – the MISSION of PASOO.

Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
Chairman, Scientific Committee
2004 PASOO Annual Convention

Fitness Walk 2004 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle



Fitness Walk 2004 is the culminating activity of our Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO). Our slogan this year – "Make Time to Walk", for today and for the rest of our lives. Let us join the hundreds of families trying to be fit and healthy on Sunday September 19, 2004 at 5:30 AM at the Quezon City Memorial Circle. This is to be followed by a mass at 7:00 AM.

The affair is open to everyone. Please come and join in the fun.

Sanirose S. Orbeta
Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA
Chair-Fitness Walk 2004
Vice-President PASOO

1st PostGraduate Course & 10th Annual Convention
TERROR ALERT: OBESITY
September 17 - 18, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Grand Ballroom, Westin Phillipine Plaza

PROGRAM

Postgraduate Course
Day 1 - September 17, 2004

7:30 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:40	Invocation - Celeste C. Tanchoco, MPH, RND
8:40 - 8:45	National Anthem
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome Remarks - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD PASOO President
9:00 - 9:15	Inspirational Talk: Jose Asa Sabili, MD - PMA Vice President
	INTRODUCTORY LECTURE Chair: Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA
9:15 - 10:00	Risk of Obesity - The Impact of Obesity on Health - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
10:00 - 10:45	Opening of Exhibits
	SESSION I Chair: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
10:45 - 11:05	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation - Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
11:05 - 11:25	Non-Pharmacologic Strategies of Weight Management • Dietary Composition & Weight Reduction - Mrs. Celeste Tanchoco, MPH, RND
11:25 - 11:45	Non-Pharmacologic Strategies of Weight Management • Role of Increasing Physical Activity - Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
11:45 - 12:00	OPEN FORUM
12:00 - 2:00	Lunch Symposium c/o ROCHE Metabolic Syndrome - Professor John Foreyt
2:00 - 2:15	Break
	SESSION II Chair: Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
2:15 - 2:35	Optimizing Weight Management Through Pharmacologic Theraphy - Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
2:35 - 2:55	Bariatric Surgery: Who, When & How? - Hildegardes Dineros, MD
2:55 - 3:10	OPEN FORUM
3:10 - 4:10	Breakout Sessions Workshop A. Assessment & Workup of Obese Patients - Prof. Ian Caterson B. Approach to Weight Management - Prof. John Foreyt
4:10 - 4:30	Health Break
4:30 - 5:00	Succesful Management of the Obese Patients - Professor John Foreyt
5:00 - 5:30	Outcome of Weight Management - Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr., MD
5:30 - 5:45	CLOSING CEREMONY - Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA Vice-President, PASOO
	Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD EMCEE

Annual Convention
Day 2-September 18, 2004

7:30 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:40	Invocation - Mrs. Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA
8:40 - 8:45	National Anthem
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome Remarks - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD PASOO President
9:00 - 9:15	Inspirational Message: Gauden Galea, MD Regional Adviser Non-Communicable Diseases World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office
	PLENARY 1 Chair: Ruby T. Go, MD
9:15 -10:00	Worldwide Obesity Patterns & Their Determinants - Professor Ian Caterson
10:00 -10:30	Health Break / Visit Booth
	SYMPOSIUM I Chair: Roberto C. Mirasol, MD
10:30 -10:50	Hormones and Energy - Is There a Relationship? - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD
10:50 -11:10	Cardiovascular Risks & Co-Morbidities - Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr.,MD
11:10 -11:30	Metabolic Risks in Early Childhood Obesity- Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
11:30 - 11:45	OPEN FORUM
11:45 - 1:45	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM c/o ABBOTT Modern Obesity Treatment -- It Works! - Professor Ian Caterson
1:45 - 2:00	Break
	PLENARY 2 Chair: Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
2:00 - 2:45	Psychological Strategies to Weight Mgt. - Professor John Foreyt
	CONTROVERSIES Chair: Edgardo L. Tolentino, MD
2:45 - 3:30	High Carb or High Protein Diet - Ruby T. Go, MD vs. Sjoberg A. Kho, MD
3:30 - 4:15	Is Pharmacotherapy Essential to Weight Mgt. - Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS,RD,FADA vs.Gerry H. Tan, MD
4:15 - 5:00	The Fast Food Craze - boon or bane? - Dr. Catherine Castañeda vs. Mr. Jose Bayani Baylon
5:00 - 5:15	CLOSING CEREMONY – Sanirose S. Orbeta, MS, RD, FADA Vice-President, PASOO
	Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD EMCEE

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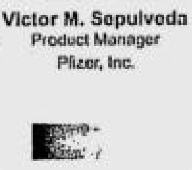

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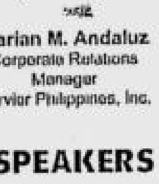

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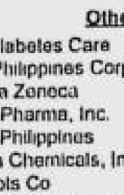
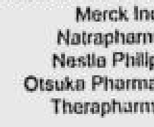


Professor John Foreyt



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GlaxoSmithKline
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Merck Inc.
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Nestle Philippines
Otsuka Pharmaceuticals
Therapharma, Inc.

Cebu victims find drugs, cell phone theft linked

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

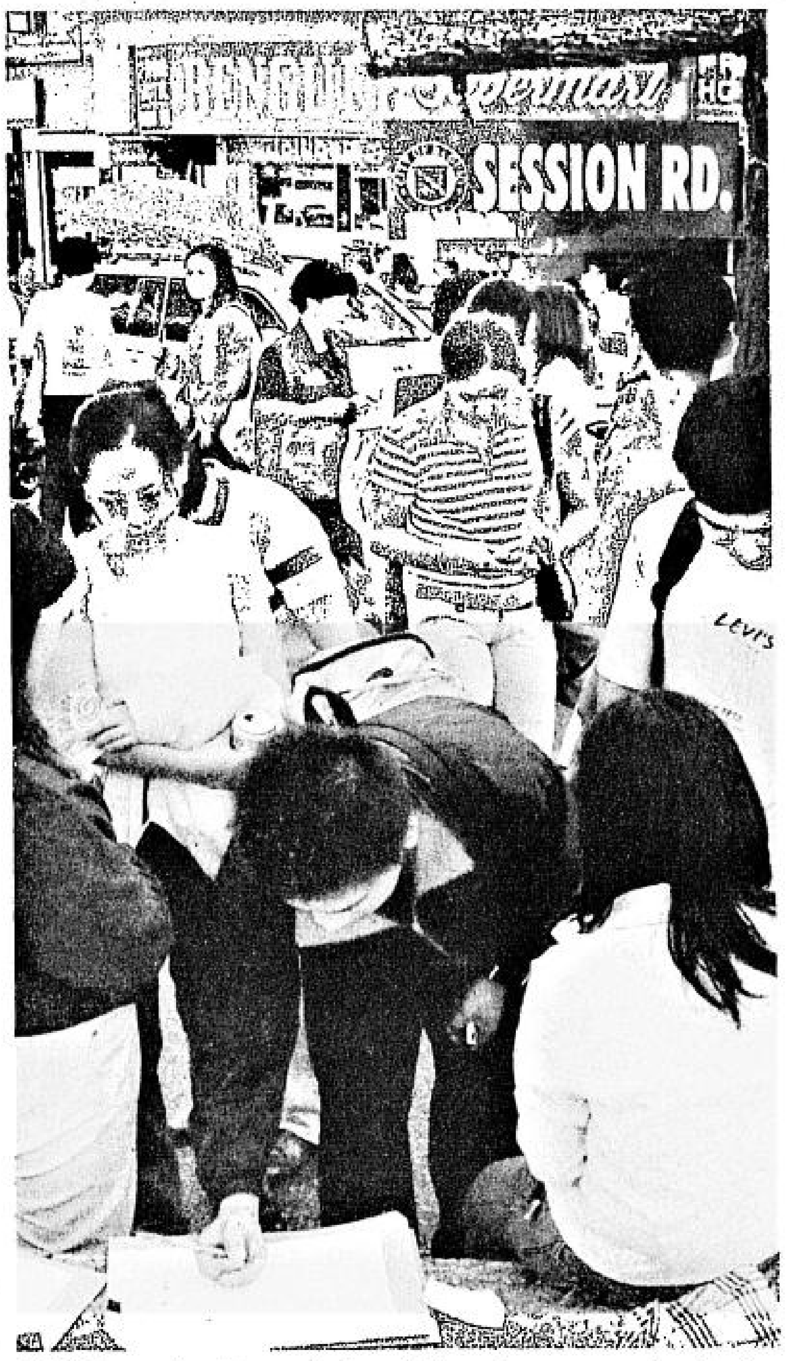
CEBU CITY—Fernando Destura, 22, was waiting for a ride home on Natalio Bacalso Street at about 7:30 p.m. one recent Wednesday when a man suddenly came up to him, pointing a .38 cal. revolver.

The man demanded his 3530 Nokia cellular phone, which his girlfriend had given him as an anniversary gift only the day before. For sentimental reasons, Destura decided to risk his life for the phone.

He fought back and disarmed the suspect—Jaime Antonio, 24, of Barangay Calamba. Antonio retreated and ran to a nearby restaurant.

But Destura, a second-year criminology student at the University of Cebu, was not done yet. He gave chase and fought with the suspect, who now brandished a nine-inch knife.

People milled around to watch, but nobody stepped forward to help him subdue the suspect.



YOUNG people mill around where SIM cards are swapped on Session Road in Baguio City.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

"I was already on the verge of tears because nobody came to help me even if I repeatedly sought their assistance," said Destura in Cebuano.

Eventually, he managed to subdue the suspect. Out of frustration, he said, he dragged Antonio down the middle of the road, to force an approaching vehicle to stop and help him.

They hitched a ride to the San Nicolas police station in Barangay Taboan.

Sitting inside a cramped detention cell, Antonio told the INQUIRER he thought Destura was not the type to fight. "*Amawa, karatista diay* (I didn't realize he knew karate)," he said, smiling.

Drug users

Antonio admitted that he regularly took drugs—"at least twice a week"—and would have sold Destura's cellular phone to buy shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

Antonio said he had once exchanged a cellular phone for a gram of shabu, which costs about P2,000.

When asked if he would change his ways if he got out of jail, he thought for a moment and then replied: "*Depende sa sitwasyon* (Depends on the situation)."

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As Antonio's case proves, the rampant robbery of cellular phones in Cebu City is tied to the problem of illegal drugs. Like Antonio, many of the phone thieves are drug users who commit the crime mainly to sustain their vices.

"They prefer cellular phones because these are easier to dispose," said Supt. Paul Labra, head of the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau.

He said he had arrested a suspect who exchanged a high-end cellular phone worth P24,000 for a seven-gram pack of shabu worth about P14,000.

An intelligence agent at the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also said they had recovered several stolen cellular phones during raids on suspected drug pushers.

The source told the INQUIRER that there were even pushers who preferred to be paid in cellular phones instead of cash because they could potentially earn more.

A desperate drug user may sell a pusher a P5,000 phone for only P1,000, or even as low as P500. The pushers would then sell the stolen phones at a higher price, the source said.

Labra said cell phone robbers and snatchers were all men between 17 and 25 years old. Asked how many were drug dependents, he replied: "One hundred percent."

Risky places

Police records show that 921 cases of cell phone theft and robbery occurred in Cebu City from January to August this year.

The thieves don't belong to a syndicate but they usually know each other, Labra said.

They usually attack on Natalio Bacalso Street near a jeepney terminal because this is where people from the southern parts of the province usually converge, he added.

Other favorite locations include M. J. Cuenco Avenue, Barangay Lorega and Plaza Independencia, where those residing in the north usually wait for their rides.

These areas not only look deserted in the evening; they also harbor illegal drug peddlers.

But Labra said they have increased police visibility in the areas where the cell phone thieves usually operate. The deployment of 80 policemen from the Mobile Group has already slowed down the operation of motorcycle-riding snatchers.

But he said the incident will drastically go down if nobody bought stolen phones. He said he planned to ask the Cebu City Council to pass an ordinance that will require receipts from those who pawn their cellular phones.

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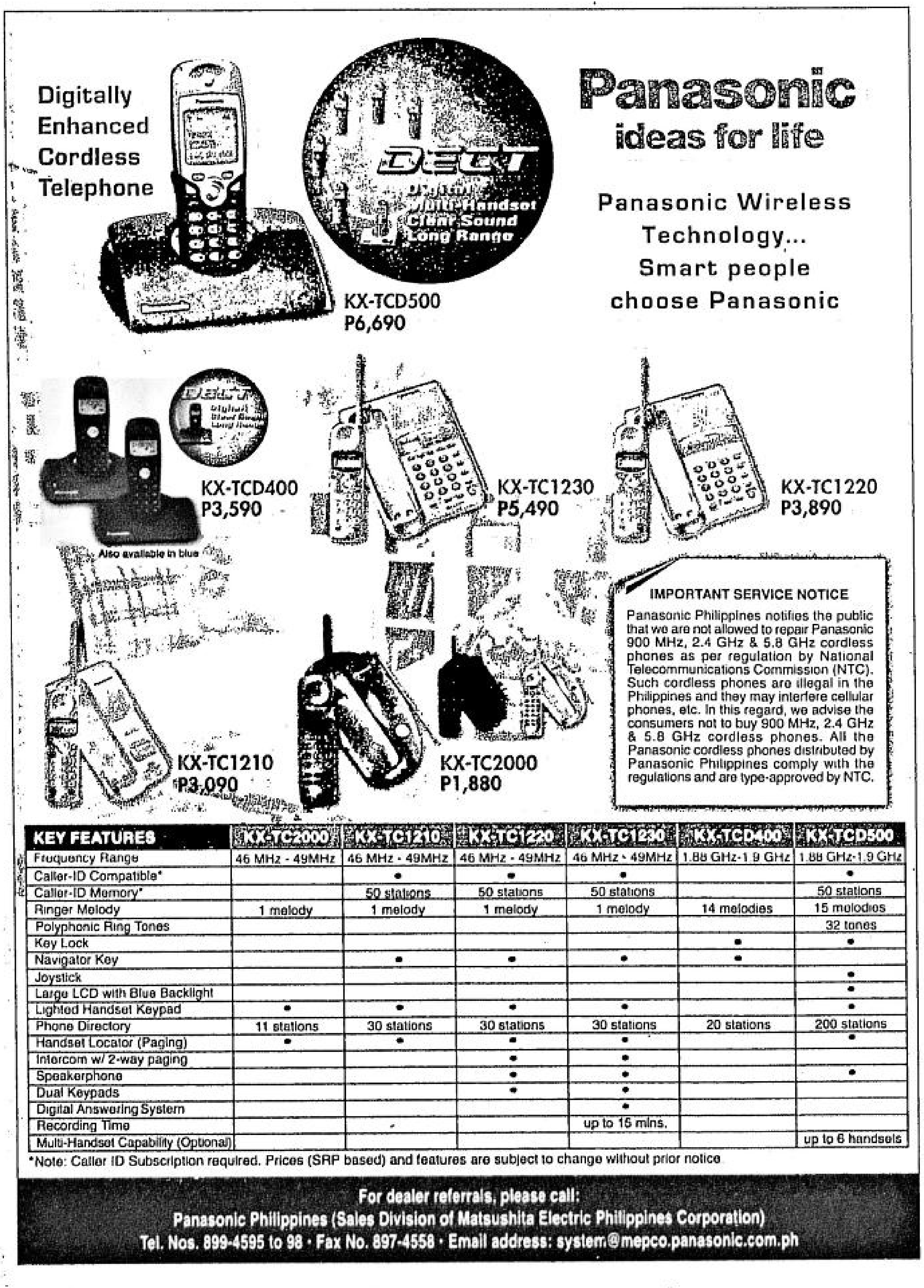
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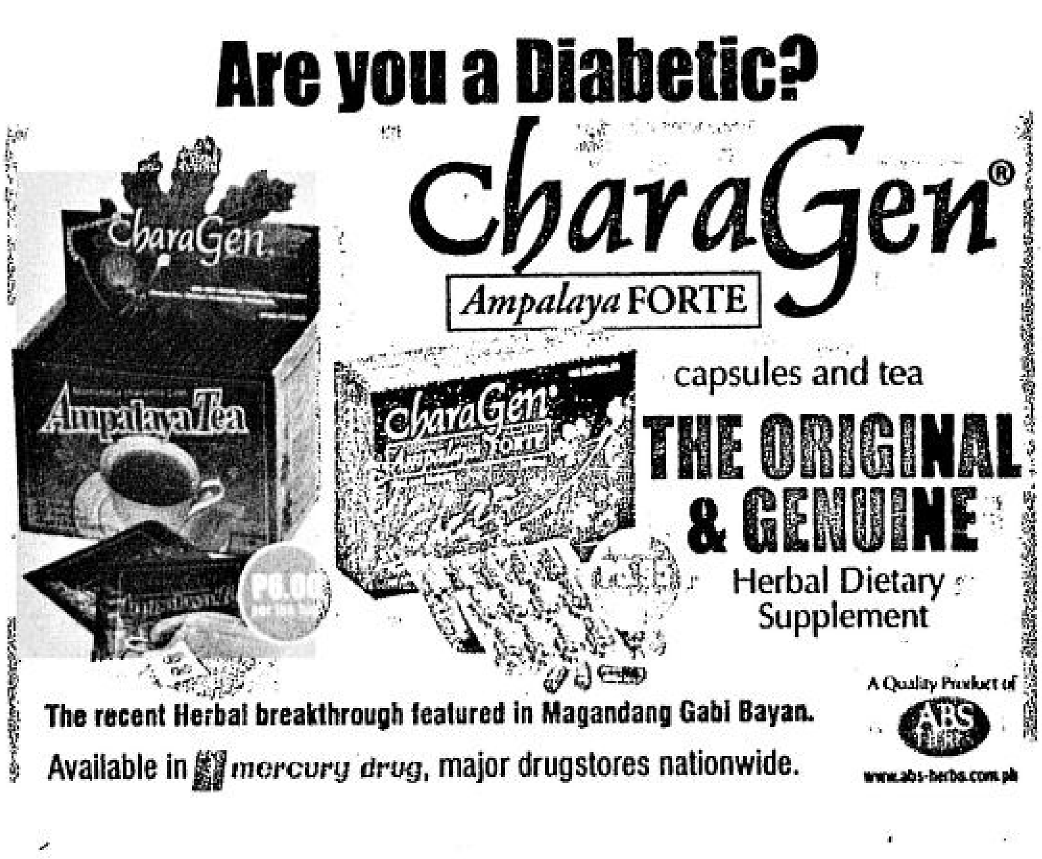
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Retired Army execs seek higher pension

COTABATO CITY—Some 600 retired members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines appealed for an increase in their monthly pension to help them cope with rising prices of basic commodities.

"The present pension is no longer reasonable to meet our day-to-day needs with prices of goods, medicines and services getting higher and higher," said retired Army Col. Rollin Erasmo, spokesperson of the AFP Retirees Association (AFPRA).

According to Erasmo, the group is aware of the government's predicament "but priority should also be given to AFPRA members," many of whom are disabled who need medical attention "to enjoy the remaining years of their retired military career."

Long before the fiscal crisis gripped the government, the group came up with a petition asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to look after complaints on "meager and unpaid monthly pension," said the 65-year-old spokesperson, who once served as chief of staff of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Early appeal

Early this year, Erasmo sought the assistance of Virgilio Leyretana, then deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao, who vowed to bring the matter to the attention of Malacañang and top officials of the AFP.

Leyretana, recently designated Mindanao Peace and Development Fund (MPDF) executive director with a rank of undersecretary, said the region's AFP retirees should bear the burden and understand the government's monetary problem that retirees from other agencies are also encountering.

He said he will see how the MPDF can come in to resolve the retirees' plight in the realm of "promoting social justice and sustainable peace."

"It hurts to know that active members of the military are enjoying the fruits of the salary standardization law. We AFP retirees seemed to have been left unattended," said retired Army MSgt. Nick Nalcot.

Under the law, he said, the pension should have been raised by 10 percent in 2000; 5 percent in 2001; 20, 30 and 50 percent in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, Nalcot claimed.

Retired heroes

"We've served the country during war and in time of peace, some of us were hailed as heroes and yet the remaining years of our retirement appear to have been taken for granted," retiree Maj. Montia Kasan of Maguindanao said.

Col. Jomura Papandayan, another military retiree, was rather enthusiastic, saying the group's appeal could be acted with dispatch through a "presidential intercession."

The government has been raising funds to fill up the huge budget deficit. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Thieves kill woman, nephew

COTABATO CITY—An elderly businesswoman and her nephew were killed by suspected thieves in Libungan, North Cotabato on Monday. SPO3 Renato Endrina, Libungan deputy police chief, said the suspects, Ramil Garingo and Gilbert Anestiso, admitted they killed 60-year-old Rosita Ty and her nephew Francisco Martin, 22, due to financial difficulty. Endrina said the suspects pretended to be customers wanting to buy empty sacks at the warehouse-store of the victims located near the Cotabato-Davao highway. Garingo, who claimed he stabbed to death Martin, told police the plan was just to rob the victims of cash and valuables. "His (Martin's) resistance forced me to stab him," he said. Anestiso said he repeatedly smashed a rock on the old woman's head when she tried to intervene. "We were broke and out of cash and so we decided to rob the victims and use the loot in our trip to Lebak (a costal town of Sultan Kudarat)," Anestiso, speaking in the dialect, said. No cash, except for an old Rado wristwatch owned by Ty, was recovered from the suspects, who were arrested inside the victims' well-guarded commercial-residential compound several hours after the late afternoon robbery-slaying, police said.

Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kids locked in house die in fire

DAVAO CITY—Three children who were left on their own in their locked house were charred to death after a fire hit a slum area in Bolinao Site, Kilometer 12, Sasa district here on Monday afternoon. Fire investigators identified the victims as Jason Tumayao, 6; his brothers Roy Jr., 3; and Eric, 2. FO1 Anthony Ibanez, Lanang Fire Station investigator, said the fire, which started at around 2 p.m. from the Tumayao residence, also razed 13 other houses. The three children were locked inside their house to prevent them from wandering out in the streets as their parents had to leave to earn a living. Amy, the children's mother, sells rice cakes while her husband is a house painter. Amy said the three children were sleeping when she left the house.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Council rejects IRA cut

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Calapan City council unanimously approved a resolution Sept. 8 vehemently opposing the move of Malacañang to reduce the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of local government units. The ordinance said Calapan City's share in the IRA for 2004 amounted to P196 million. Of the total IRA, about P90 million was appropriated for personnel services, which include salaries and wages of employees and other personnel, P39 million was earmarked as local development fund (LDF) representing the 20 percent IRA and an amount of P11 million or 5 percent was set aside as calamity fund. "The city government of Calapan needs substantial resources to finance the service delivery functions devolved to the LGU and its other requirements, which cannot be funded using the present meager resources," the ordinance said.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cops told to prepare for run

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Be physically fit or you're out. Director General Edgardo Aglipay, Philippine National Police chief, ordered all policemen to undergo a regular one-kilometer fitness run to test their staying power and remain healthy. Aglipay, a native of Camalaniugan, Cagayan, told reporters here on Monday that those who would fail the fitness run would be sent to Corregidor in Bataan or Subic in Zambales for rigorous training. He said he would allow policemen until Oct. 31 to prepare for the regular fitness run. As the new police chief, Aglipay said he would sanction policemen who were not giving "utmost courtesy" to civilians. Reiterating his campaign against lazy and incompetent law enforcers, Aglipay said he would supervise and monitor police officers and members.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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54 Years

Figures don't tell the real story

From page A1

The fact is that the figures, which vary depending on who's talking, do not tell the real story.

But of this Supt. Napoleon Taas, PNP intelligence and investigation division chief for Metro Manila, is sure: The problem of cell phone theft and robbery is much worse than the 817 incidents reported nationwide from January to July this year.

"Even if you double the figure, we believe the total number would still be a bit higher," Taas told the INQUIRER, citing informal surveys among patrol officers and a recent Social Weather Stations study showing the crime rate was higher than reported cases.

But the figures appeared to be enough to put phone theft on the PNP's priority list.

Besides the 817 incidents recorded by the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), separate data provided by the Directorate for Intelligence showed a total of 1,322 cases nationwide from March to December last year.

Because the time frames vary, figures can be compared only based on the second quarters of 2003 and 2004. During those periods, incidents dropped by 73.2 percent, from 422 last year to 113 this year.

Still, cell phone theft "highly contributed to the upsurge of street crime nationwide," said the DIDM report.

They comprised 31 percent of the total 2,621 robbery cases and 9.84 percent of the 8,270 street crimes reported from January to July this year. (In the PNP investigation process, phone theft is under the category of robbery, directly under "snatching" together with cases involving bags, purses and jewelry.)

Statistics

Metro Manila, followed by Central Visayas, registered the biggest number of cases in both the 2003 and 2004 records of the DIDM.

From March to December last year, a total of 518 cases were reported in Metro Manila, just 10 more than the incidents recorded in Central Visayas during the same period. Calabarzon ranked a distant third with 55 cases.

This year was no different. Metro Manila registered 288 incidents and Central Visayas, 267, from January to July. Calabarzon remained in third place with 55 incidents.

A separate report provided by the NCRPO showed only a total of 245 cases in Metro Manila from January to August this year.

Despite the disparity, the rankings of Metro Manila and Central Visayas are a logical indication that thieves are many where cell phone users are aplenty, said PNP intelligence director Robert Delfin, a former Central Visayas regional director.

"There are naturally too many cell phone users in these places because of the bustling commercial activity there. And as a consequence, there are also many thieves as well," Delfin said.

Cebu, etc.

This reality was underscored by Cebu's having the biggest number of cases this year. Of the 13 highly urbanized cities that recorded 323 incidents, it was the highest with 206. Baguio City was a far second with only 17 cases. *(See stories in Across the Nation, Page A20.)*

Lapu-Lapu City, also in Central Visayas, was another favorite of phone thieves. It accounted for 15.85 percent (29 cases) of the total 129 incidents reported in 27 component cities.

In Metro Manila, southern towns and cities had the biggest number of incidents with 107. Manila was second with 74, Quezon City third with 70, northern areas with 24, and the eastern part with only 13.

Pasay, a city notorious for its night life, might soon be made even more so by its thieves. It accounted for 52 cases of cell phone theft, comprising 48.6 percent of the total incidents in Metro Manila.

The other report provided by the NCRPO had a far different set of findings: Quezon City, particularly its Batasan area, is the most dangerous place for cell phone users with a total of 118 cases reported from January to August this year. Batasan alone recorded 29, followed by Cubao with 23.

According to the report, the next area of concentration for thieves is Manila, which registered at least 106 incidents during the same period. Sta. Cruz, a highly congested labyrinth of poorly lit side streets, recorded 28 cases.

For PO1 Ariel Eufemio, Cubao in Quezon City is arguably the most dangerous place in the country for a cell phone user.

Cubao

Since he was assigned to the Kamuning police station last December, the 25-year-old rookie cop has caught seven phone thieves, earning for him the moniker *"Kilabot ng mga Snatcher"* (snatchers' terror) among his peers.

The number is on top of the 12 he caught when he was still with the Cubao police station near the corner of Edsa and N. Domingo Street, another area he considers a nest of phone snatchers.

"Cubao is dangerous because there are just so many people going there every day. There's also a nearby squatter area where thieves can hide," Eufemio told the INQUIRER.

In many cases, he said, he and fellow patrol officers lost snatchers in the slums around Cubao.

Sidewalk vendors and jeepney "barkers" add to the problem, said PO1 Gilbert Fuentes.

"Based on our experience, some of them are in connivance with snatchers," he said. "Some vendors hide a stolen phone passed on to them by a thief being pursued. Some barkers identify possible targets."

With Cubao slowly gaining an unsavory image, Kamuning station commander Cesar Hathorne Binag tightened security there starting last year.

Two pairs of uniformed cops now patrol the area in 12-hour shifts, one pair along the corner of Edsa and Aurora going to the bus terminals and the other along E. Rodriguez.

By deploying a sufficient number of policemen, the PNP under Director General Edgar Aglipay is hoping to take away the opportunity and means—two essential elements in a crime—from a phone thief, Binag said.

"Snatchers strike when they see an opening, like if there's a student texting in an open area and there's no policeman in sight," Binag said. "A crime is also likely to take place if the thief has the means, say, a weapon, on top of an escape route."

Do's and don'ts

Given the danger, Eufemio advises everyone not to use a cell phone in a public place. If it is absolutely necessary to make a call, one should do it near a policeman or security guard or in an enclosed place like a restaurant, he said.

Another preventive measure involves the cooperation of pawnshop owners.

"As policemen ... we can always check if pawnshops are selling dubious cell phones," Binag said. "But we don't want to be accused of trying to extort money from these people, so we ask pawnshop owners to regularly report to us whenever a suspicious-looking guy comes to them, selling a mobile phone."

There's also "Oplan: Tatak," a program that will put IDs on cell phones. The PNP plans to start implementing the program initially in Metro Manila this week.

The idea is to have all cell phones engraved with numbers of the owners' choice, Taas said. Thus, authorities can easily contact owners when their phones are recovered or found displayed in second-hand stores.

All phone owners have to do is visit the nearest police station and have their units marked, free of charge, Taas said.

Charge 'em

The recovery of stolen cell phones naturally brings satisfaction to a victim, but sometimes woe to arresting officers.

Of the seven snatchers Eufemio had caught since December, only four were charged before the city prosecutor by their victims. The other victims did not want to go through the hassle of filing a court case.

Such an attitude sends snatchers back to the streets. "It's a vicious cycle that has to stop," Eufemio said.

The rookie cop once caught a thief after a 10-minute chase in Cubao. Edgar Advincula, 26, had snatched the phone of a 19-year-old girl walking with her mother.

Eufemio recovered the unit, a Nokia 3315 (costing roughly P3,300). But the girl balked at filing a case.

"She said she couldn't because she's going abroad," the cop said. "Her mother wasn't interested either. She said she's living in Pangasinan."

If it's any consolation, Eufemio said, Advincula was charged with illegal possession of a deadly weapon, for the fan knife he was carrying. But based on a Quezon City ordinance, the maximum penalty is 30 days in jail.

Advincula, supposedly a known "Bahala Na" gang member, posted bail of P2,000. He's back in the streets.

P10,000 bail

Who is to blame for the upsurge in cell phone theft? *(See story in Business, Page B1.)*

And should victims be blamed for their apathy?

In the first place, the judicial process is such that it takes a long, tedious and expensive process to prosecute someone who stole, say, a P5,000 cell phone. Add to this the fact that cell phone theft is bailable by only P10,000 and that a convicted thief may be jailed for only 6-12 years, according to Eufemio.

Fuentes, his fellow patrol officer, theorized that big crime syndicates were behind the rash of cell phone thefts, as suggested by the ease with which arrested snatchers were able to raise bail.

There's also the nagging fear that the snatcher's cohorts can get back at a complainant, Fuentes said.

"I think our present law is somewhat lax. Maybe Congress can pass a special law doing away with bail for a phone thief," Eufemio said.

He also suggested that the law be amended allowing police to serve as complainants so cases could still prosper even if the victims had lost interest.

Creativity

NCRPO records show that police "solved" 42.8 percent or 105 of the total 245 cases reported from January to August this year.

A case is deemed solved when the thief/robber has been identified, arrested and charged before a prosecutor, explained Director Avelino Razon Jr., NCRPO chief.

But according to another officer, in many instances a case is declared solved just because the stolen cell phone had been recovered.

In dealing with seasoned thieves and apathetic victims, Binag said police could use a bit of "creativity and imagination."

There was a time, he recalled, when he asked his men to take video footage of the Cubao area. With the aid of previously arrested snatchers, police then identified suspected thieves and warned them.

"The idea is to let them know that we know who they are and we're watching them," he said. "But of course, we can't arrest them unless a formal complaint is filed."

Fuentes and fellow patrolmen make it a point to talk regularly with known snatchers in the area. They're convinced that personal reminders may one day make the latter change their ways. *Conclusion: Cell phones as major icon of Philippine life*

Nokia backs fight vs cell phone theft

FOLLOWING is a statement from Nokia, the leading manufacturer of cell phones:

We endorse industry efforts to fight the theft of mobile phones and believe that IMEI integrity is an important aspect of product security.

The IMEI in our mobile phones is secured by using commercially viable tamper-resistant technologies in line with the requirement set by GSM specifications. While every effort is made to implement solutions that resist tampering, some level of risk and uncertainty is inherent in all mobile phone products, in the same way that such risks concern computers and other electronic equipment.

It has been brought to our attention that there are some unauthorized and illegal cases in the Philippines of IMEI hacking. We will support the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in prosecuting such entities according to Philippine laws.

We have taken all necessary steps to work closely with the NTC in efforts to address this matter. Late last year, our security specialist from Finland met with NTC officials to brief them on Nokia's continuous efforts and commitment.

We are closely following developments in this area and are continuously trying to improve the security features in our mobile phones.

Cell phone stolen? Get even, disable it

From page A1

Every time you call or send a text message, these two numbers are flashed on screens maintained by service providers, such as Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular.

You can access your IMEI by pressing *#06#. It is the 15-digit number inside your phone, usually located near where the SIM card is placed. Be sure to list it down.

Before you pay for a cell phone, press *#06#, and then look up the number inside. See if they match. If they do not, it means the phone has been tampered with.

So your phone was lost or stolen. If you were a postpaid subscriber, immediately inform your Cellular Mobile Telephone System service provider about the loss. The CMTS operator can block the SIM card to ensure that you will not be charged for further calls made on the phone.

Both prepaid and postpaid subscribers should go to the NTC to have the IMEI disabled.

The NTC will prepare the order to block to be sent to all CMTS operators. Blocked IMEIs may be verified on the NTC website www.ntc.gov.ph.

The blocking will be done within 24 hours after receipt of the NTC order. It usually takes effect within a day, or a week at most.

Once the phone is blocked, the words "SIM registration failed" will appear on the phone every time one tries to access it.

Disabled or blocked phones may be unblocked or "white-listed." Again, the order must come from the NTC. (You may call the NTC's One Stop Public Assistance Center, or Ospac, at 926-7722 or 436-7722, or e-mail ospac@ntc.gov.ph.

Last 2 digits

On the other hand, Filipino electronic technicians have found a way to unlock a blocked phone by changing the last two digits of its 15-digit serial number.

At one time, technicians logged on to the NTC website, downloaded its list of blocked mobile phones, and checked if the serial numbers still worked.

When they found one that did, they used the number to unlock a blocked phone and sell it in the market. (Remember, the actual blocking of a stolen phone takes effect within a day to a week.)

Of course, the phone will conk out soon enough, sending the buyer back to the second-hand store to have his phone changed or fixed.

Such stores usually do not give buyers their money back. They simply hand over another phone.

Government officials trying to stop the sale of stolen or illegal cell phones are dismayed by this "misplaced" skill.

Upgrading

"I wish this talent by our technicians would be used in a positive way," said engineer Danilo Cuenca, head of the NTC's Ospac, which processes up to 50 phone-related complaints daily, 90 percent of them involving stolen units.

Technicians can also upgrade a phone—make its memory bigger, its screen brighter, or its light blink as it rings.

"Filipinos are ingenious," said Cuenca. "In other countries or big service centers, if you have your phone repaired, they will change the whole motherboard. But in small stalls here, technicians will change just the defective part."

He said some second-hand shops would buy old or defective phones because some of the parts could still be used.

"From these parts, they can make another unit—what you call a reconditioned phone," he said.

But there is risk in having your phone upgraded in non-NTC-certified shops, Cuenca said.

Technicians can steal the IMEI and replace it with a blocked one. They can replace the LCD (screen) and battery with old ones. They can tinker with your phone and check if there is anything usable.

The same ingenuity may have prompted manufacturers to redesign cell phones.

Starting next year, the motherboard can no longer be soldered, according to Cuenca. This means the whole motherboard must be replaced during repair.

"Our advice is simply: Don't tinker with your phone. Leave it as it is," Cuenca said.

New rules

The NTC has issued two circulars aimed at curbing illegal practices by unauthorized service centers and phone dealers.

These are meant to address "numerous reports of lost and stolen mobile phones perpetrated by criminal elements, which have resulted in injuries and deaths of victims."

Under the new rules, cell phone dealers must secure a permit from the NTC. Stocking phones acquired illegally is banned.

Dealers are also required to submit to the NTC an inventory of their IMEI codes and SIM cards every month.

The same is true with phone service centers. They are also banned from repairing phones and from keeping parts or accessories illegally acquired.

Service centers are required to get from the NTC the list of blocked IMEIs at the start of each month.

Software programs used for altering the IMEI code are banned as well.

Violators face suspension, cancellation and revocation of permits, and payment of fines.

A crackdown against unauthorized dealers and service centers is set early next year, the NTC said.

A sign of desperation, says text group

By Norman Bordadora

THE RISE in cell phone thefts is a sign of desperation amidst widespread poverty, Text Power, a subscriber-based advocacy group, said yesterday.

According to Text Power spokesperson Trixie Concepcion, developed countries with more cell phones "per square meter" than the Philippines do not have the same problem. The urgency to make a fast buck is indicative of the country's dire economic situation, she said.

"[The thieves] are so desperate that they're willing to kill [for it]," Concepcion told the INQUIRER. "This is not to justify what they're doing, but the economic situation is such that more people are forced into this type of crime."

Concepcion, who also heads the militant science and technology group Agham, said the National Telecommunications Commission should be more aggressive in monitoring shops selling cell phones, especially used units.

"It is the government's responsibility to protect cell phone owners from thieves. Every person has the right to own a cell phone," she said.

Text Power had its 15 minutes of fame last month when it released Speaker Jose de Venecia's mobile number to the public and urged the millions of Filipino cell phone subscribers to swamp him with messages of protest against the planned tax on text messaging.

The plan has since been abandoned.

Bishop urges people to give time, skills to gov't

From page A1

tempted to graft and corruption, has oppressed others and violated their rights."

But he cautioned that "focusing on the amount and the recipient" was tantamount to "missing the point."

"[The message] is neither adversarial nor confrontational, it has no Edsa-like element," Capalla said. "To the perceptive it carries a conscientizing effect. Its target is our moral conscience."

When the collective conscience is "reawakened and active," he explained, not only "money and treasure ... will be shared for country."

He expected the bulk of sharing to come "from the rank and file, the poor and the needy, the sick and the marginalized," the archbishop said. He cited examples: a P20 donation from a group of students from Tacloban, Leyte, P400 from the University of Mindanao's Makabayan Dance Troupe, and P1,200 from the Daughters of St. Paul in Davao City.

In an earlier pastoral letter dated Aug. 31, Capalla urged the faithful to give money to the government to help President Macapagal-Arroyo overcome the fiscal crisis.

For Alay Gobyerno, he said, people could also contribute to their barangays and immediate communities.

How about ...?

In Baguio City, critical eyes are on the controversial Jose Pidal accounts.

President Arroyo should take "the high road" by donating these to the Bayanihan Fund, members of the Aksyon Demokratiko political party and the militant Cordillera People's Alliance said yesterday.

They believe such a move would generate "genuine public sympathy" for her.

Former Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, Aksyon coordinator for the Cordillera region, said Ms Arroyo's credibility problems were hampering her government's appeal for private donations to the fund, aimed at easing the budget deficit.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier exposed the accounts which, he said, consisted largely of payoffs from government projects, and charged that "Jose Pidal" was really First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Total amount alleged "hidden" in all 12 related accounts, Lacson said, was P260 million.

The First Gentleman's brother Ignacio Arroyo—now a congressman representing Negros Occidental—had quickly stepped up to claim the alias. He said the accounts were private funds protected by the bank secrecy law.

Joan Carling, CPA chair, said Ms Arroyo should close the Pidal issue once and for all.

In the first place, Carling said, "if she wanted people to trust her, this [was] the first thing she could have addressed." Now, she said, government resources were being used to sustain the President's positive public image and cover up her administration's culpability for the budget deficit.

Cosalan said "most politicians" believed that the money in the Pidal accounts were actually Ms Arroyo's unspent election donations from her 1998 vice presidential campaign.

The Pidal scandal would haunt Ms Arroyo, Carling warned, until "she gives it all back to the people."

MMDA sets up emergency bays

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A DRIVER'S oasis on Edsa.

Motorists will soon have less to worry about should their car breakdown on Metro Manila's main thoroughfare.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has begun building emergency bays, or e-bays, for stalled vehicles on the highway.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told a press conference that drivers of stalled vehicles could seek shelter for free at the e-bays while they fix the problem or wait for help.

First e-bays on the way

E-bays, which would be 24 meters long and four meters wide, are already being carved out of the center islands off Nepa-Q-Mart and SM Megamall, said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

He added that these first e-bays would be finished in a week.

The traffic chief said they were planning to build e-bays every 250 to 500 meters to cater to distressed motorists.

"Vehicle owners should make sure to park their vehicles within the bays or risk facing fines and towing charges," Fernando said.

Otherwise, the chair said stalled vehicles that block traffic would be towed away and their owners would have to pay P800 for towing and P400 for obstruction.

Maximum of two hours

Fernando said stalled vehicles would be allowed at the e-bays for only two hours. Vehicles going beyond that would be towed away.

"Vehicles should not stay in the e-bays for long because others could use these as parking spaces," Fernando said.

The MMDA would be monitoring the e-bays to make sure that motorists do not overstay or use it for parking.

Fernando said the e-bays would also be constructed in other main thoroughfares such as Quezon Avenue.

JOAN BONDOC

STREET SPLASH
Children welcome the sudden downpour on East Avenue in Quezon City belly down on the busy street.

Controversy mars BuCor director's resignation

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Nancy C. Carvajal

BUREAU of Corrections (BuCor) Director Dionisio Santiago resigned due to "burn out" and death threats, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

However, other reasons are also being cited behind the scenes.

Gonzalez said Santiago visited him yesterday morning and showed him the letter which the BuCor chief sent to Malacañang Monday informing the President of his irrevocable resignation.

"I told him to reconsider but of course, the last word would be the President's," Gonzalez said.

He said he was not aware of reports that Gonzalez left his post because two big-time drug traffickers were able to escape from the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa recently.

Death threats

"I have no knowledge about that," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said Santiago told him that he felt burnt out in his job and that he had been receiving death threats.

The former Army commander and Armed Forces chief of staff did not say who were threatening him, Gonzalez said.

"He said he did not carry a gun before but now he does," the justice secretary said.

But a source who had worked closely with Santiago had another story.

The source said Santiago resigned after Malacañang allocated 900,000 square meters of New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) land in Muntinlupa City for housing without even telling the BuCor chief.

Proclamation 667

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation 667 in July and took away the land from the BuCor and the scope of the NBP.

To benefit from Arroyo's housing project would be employees of the Office of the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the central office in Quezon City.

The source said Santiago felt bad that he was not consulted about the giving of the land to employees not involved in the Bilibid prisons.

Gonzalez said BuCor Assistant Director Joselito Fajardo would temporarily take over Santiago's post while the Palace decides who would replace him.

8 ignored warning, and paid with their lives

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ANTS were feasting on his skin but Yvesmark Rivera, 9, endured their bite rather than let go of a tree branch that was keeping him alive as the water swelled.

His sister, Yhanny, 13, was already gone. She was one of eight people who died after they were swept away by strong current at the Biak-na-Bato River in San Miguel, Bulacan, Sunday.

The body of the eighth victim, Diether Capalad, 8, was retrieved only yesterday.

Mary Grace Rivera, 31, was with her children, Yhanny and Yvesmark, when tragedy struck.

She said they had been in the water for an hour when they were told to get out of the river as a drizzle began. But her children, their cousins and friends insisted on going back.

Yvesmark said they were swimming when the water suddenly grew.

At first, it was only up to his knees. Then, as rain started to pour, the water quickly rose.

Most of the 20 people then in the river were swept away by the strong current.

Some, like Yvesmark and Yhanny managed to hold on to tree branches. But the raging water snatched Yhanny away.

Capalad, Gladys Ganalongo, 9; Mitchilyn Ann Santiago, 7; Bessie Sanchez, 14; Mary Ann Santiago, 26; Mark Robert Pineda, 12; and Mark Allan Pineda, 9, also drowned.

New ticket scheme saves cash for gov't

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Traffic Ticket scheme is saving money for the government, according to Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Fernando said that the ticket scheme allowed them to close nine license redemption centers.

"These redemption centers cost us hundreds of thousands monthly in rental fees, electric bills and manpower," he said in a press conference.

The MMDA chair said they spend P50,000 a month for each of the redemption centers, which have recently been closed down following the the agency's decision to scrap the Traffic Violation Receipt scheme.

More delays seen in Tumana project

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE SNAIL-PACED construction of the Tumana Bridge in Marikina City has been burdened with other problems that threaten to delay further its completion.

For one, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had begun the project in February 2003 without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), a document obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday showed.

Two, the DPWH has apparently not secured the right of way for the bridge's approach on its Marikina side, according to people familiar with the project.

An ECC certifies that a project is not destructive to its immediate surroundings and conforms with the standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It must be obtained before construction begins.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact engineer Ray Bautista, project chief, for comment.

His office said he was at the construction site and could not be reached by mobile phone.

In his letter to the DPWH project manager on July 28, 2004, DENR-National Capital Region Director Sixto Tolentino Jr. said the department violated DENR rules.

"Your are hereby notified that your establishment violated section 4 of P.D. No. 1586 for starting the implementation of your project Tumana Bridge without an environmental compliance certificate," Tolentino said in his letter.

The DPWH is already trying to secure the ECC, according to Plaridel Dalistan of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau.

But the DPWH has so far only submitted a project description, not the initial environment examination report that the DENR needs so it could release the ECC.

The problem is rooted in an apparent miscalculation.

Dalistan said the DPWH had assumed it does not need the ECC.

"The DPWH thought the project is under the CNC or certificate of non-coverage," he said.

A CNC project is exempted from securing an ECC that is usually given to rehabilitation projects and the construction of bridges less than 50 meters long.

The new Tumana Bridge was supposed "to replace" the current, low-lying Tumana Bridge.

Not a replacement

But the new structure is not built on top of the old bridge, nor does it require the demolition of the old one.

It is therefore not a "replacement" but an entirely different project.

DPWH might have thought otherwise, according to Dalistan.

Also, the new bridge is more than 50 meters long.

Because of this, the project clearly requires an ECC, he said.

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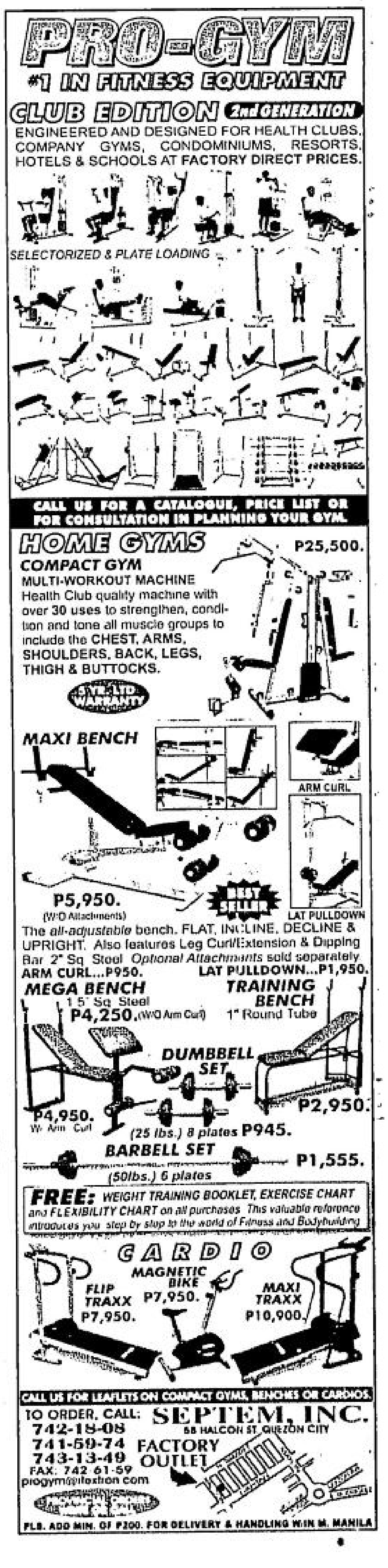

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LTO CAMPAIGN

Red plates watch nets 11 LGU violators

By Clarissa S. Batino

ELEVEN of the 26 red plate vehicles caught being used for unofficial business by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) were issued to local government units (LGUs) mostly in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, according to LTO head Anneli Lontoc.

As part of cost-cutting measures, Malacañang ordered public officials and employees last week to use government service vehicles only on official business.

"We have submitted a list of the 26 government vehicles seen in schools and malls, obviously not on official business. The list is already with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. In time, maybe the ES could bare the list," said Lontoc.

Verification

"Of the 26, 11 were registered under LGUs, 10 of which were local governments in the National Capital Region," she added. "The rest are registered under government agencies and corporations, and one belonged to a state university."

The LTO began its monitoring of red plate vehicles last Sept. 8. Lontoc said the results were culled from five days of monitoring. Apart from the red plates, state-owned vehicles used to exhibit "government use only" markings painted on the side.

Information on the registration of the red plates was verified with the LTO database.

Appeal to public

The LTO, meanwhile, appealed to the public for help in monitoring abuses made by public officials who use their government vehicles to bring their children to school or their families to the malls.

"The public can report such violations to the LTO hotline, tel no. 921-9072, but we encourage them to present evidence like photographs or videos taken of vehicles in places where there is no official business," said Lontoc.

The transportation department also warned users of red plate cars not to violate traffic regulations.

Drive expanded

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said most drivers of these vehicles violate traffic rules with impunity as they are emboldened by the reluctance of traffic enforcers to flag them down for traffic infractions.

"Public office demands high standards for government officials, " the DOTC head said. "I think this campaign to monitor the unauthorized use of government vehicles should be widened to cover other violations committed by drivers of government-issued vehicles."

Traffic police must strictly enforce road regulations, and this includes not ignoring violations committed by drivers of government vehicles, he added.

Death along the rail tracks

By Leila B. Salaverria

A 22-YEAR-OLD house help was dragged and decapitated by a passing train as he crossed the railroad tracks in a pedicab at the corner of Blumentritt and Leonor Rivera Streets in Sta. Crus yesterday morning.

Police said that Alberto Oreno, of Felix Huertas, Sta. Cruz, Manila, had already crossed the tracks on his way to his employer's home in Tutuban at 7:45 a.m. after coming from the market.

Oreno could have thought that the oncoming train was a safe distance away, but the train apparently hit one of the pedicab's wheels as he crossed the tracks, police added. The train had dragged the victim's body several meters away from the tracks.

In another incident, a 14-year-old student was killed after a 40-foot trailer truck driven by Roberto Alejandro accidentally ran over her in Langaray, Caloocan City, the other night.

Dycerine Ramos, 14, a sophomore at the Macario Asistio High School, died instantly after the truck's rear tires pinned her down.

Her classmate, Geraldine dela Roma, 14, also sustained minor injuries. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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Archers earn twice-to-beat edge

On-a-roll La Salle shoots down Ateneo Eagles to claim No. 2 spot

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ATENEO'S Cris Tiu bites to the fake of La Salle guard Joseph Casio in their game yesterday.

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Philsports Arena*)
2 p.m.—UST vs La Salle (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UE vs FEU (Srs)

THERE was no better time for the La Salle Archers to beat their bitterest rivals.

Mac Cardona again powered the La Salle assault, firing 20 points as the Archers thrashed the Ateneo Eagles, 82-69, at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum yesterday to claim the No. 2 spot and the twice-to-beat edge in their Final Four duel in the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament.

"It's a big win for us. But the series is not yet over," said coach Franz Pumaren after La Salle's seventh straight win that tied Ateneo's win streak record in the first round.

"A team like Ateneo is capable of coming back. We can't be complacent. Remember, they also won 10 games in the eliminations. But I give credit to the (Archers), it was a collective effort."

Defending champions Far Eastern Tamaraws will clash with the University of the East Warriors in the first semifinal battle tomorrow at the Philsports Arena. La Salle and Ateneo battle on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona, the league's top scorer with a 15.8-point average, hit 13 points and proved unstoppable early on to give La Salle a 41-34 spread.

The Archers then opened the third quarter with eight unanswered baskets for a 15-point cushion, 49-34.

La Salle's systematic offense confounded the Eagles, who faced an unsurmountable 19-point deficit, 75-56, midway in the fourth quarter.

Ateneo's top scorer, JC Intal (11.9 ppg), who played with a high fever, fouled out in the third period and wound up with only six points.

Ateneo, though, prevailed in junior play as the

ARCHERS/ A26

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2	Sunday Morning	*Maroon 5*	TONE SUNDAYMORN
3	Everybody's Changing	*Keane*	TONE EVERYBODYS
4	Ride	*The Vines*	TONE RIDE
5	Breaking The Habit	*Linkin Park*	TONE BREAKHABIT
6	Things Will Go My Way	*The Calling*	TONE GOMYWAY
7	Duality	*Slipknot*	TONE DUALITY
8	Somewhere Only We Know	*Keane*	TONE SOMWER
9	Ocean Avenue	*Yellowcard*	TONE OCEANAVE
10	Yellow	*Coldplay*	TONE YELLOW

POP HITS

1	I Want To Love You (Xiang Yao Ai Ni)	*Jerry Yan*	TONE WANT2LUV
2	Outrageous	*Britney Spears*	TONE OUTRAGEOUS
3	My Happy Ending	*Avril Lavigne*	TONE HAPPYEND
4	Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	TONE LETSGET
5	Fantasy	*Jerry Yan*	TONE FANTASY
6	Take My Breath Away	*Jessica Simpson*	TONE TAKEBREATH
7	I Want It Now	*Jerry Yan*	TONE WANTNOW
8	I'll Never Get Over You (Getting Over Me)	*Bellefire*	TONE NVRGETOVR
9	Everytime	*Britney Spears*	TONE EVERYTIME
10	Can't Lose You	*F4*	TONE CANTLOSE

OPM Hits

1	Ba't Di Mo Pagbigyan	*King*	TONE BATDIMO
2	Give It All	*Rachelle Ann Go*	TONE GIVEALL
3	Kikay	*Viva Hotbabes*	TONE KIKAY
4	Halukay Ube	*Sexbomb*	TONE HALUKAY
5	Hands To Heaven	*Christian Bautista*	TONE HANDS2HVN
6	Living Without You	*Luke Mejares*	TONE LIVNGWOUT
7	Let Me Be The One	*Jimmy Bondoc*	TONE LETMEBE2
8	Sasakyan	*K & The Boxers*	TONE SASAKYAN
9	Nananaginip Ng Gising	*Sarah Geronimo*	TONE NANANAGINIP
10	Now That I Have You	*The Company*	TONE NOWDATIHAVU

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Logos	POWLOGO
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Guy Logos	POWGUY
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MMS 3BABES
MMS BACKPACK
MMS PENGUINS
MMS BEARHONEY
MMS THEKISS
MMS SADHART

PIC MESSAGES

PIC ILYGAL1
PIC UNME
PIC JESUS7
PIC ROMANCE
PIC INLOVE4
PIC BADTRIP4
PIC SAPUL
PIC NIDHUG1
PIC MASSAGE
PIC SEXYAKO

RnB HITS

1	If I Ain't Got You	*Alicia Keys*	TONE AINTGOTU
2	Overnight Celebrity	*Twista*	TONE OVERNIGHT
3	One Call Away	*Chingy*	TONE ONECALL
4	Talk About Our Love	*Brandy feat. Kanye West*	TONE TALKABOUT
5	Officially Missing You	*Tamia*	TONE OFFICIALLY
6	Until I Get Over You	*Christina Milian*	TONE GETOVER
7	Sleeping Satellite	*Tasmin Archer*	TONE SLEEPSAT
8	Crazy	*Javier*	TONE CRAZY
9	I Don't Wanna Know	*Mario Winans*	TONE DNTKNOW
10	Karma	*Alicia Keys*	TONE KARMA1

POLYTONES

1	Sunday Morning	*Maroon 5*	POLY SUNDAYMORN
2	If I Ain't Got You	*Alicia Keys*	POLY AINTGOTU
3	Hands To Heaven	*Christian Bautista*	POLY HANDS2HVN
4	2 Trick Pony	*Sandwich*	POLY 2TRICK
5	My Happy Ending	*Avril Lavigne*	POLY HAPPYEND
6	Everytime	*Britney Spears*	POLY EVERYTIME
7	I'll Never Get Over You (Getting Over Me)	*Bellefire*	POLY NVRGETOVR
8	Sasakyan	*K & The Boxers*	POLY SASAKYAN
9	Everybody's Changing	*Keane*	POLY EVERYBODYS
10	Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	POLY WERISLUV

LOGOS

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LOGO ANGEL9
LOGO TRIBALOGO
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LOGO GIVEHART
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LOGO CUTEAKO3
LOGO YINEYE
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By Musong R. Castillo

MICHAEL Bibat shot a six-under-par 66 and Boyet Saragoza signed for a level 72 yesterday, making it a Philippine 1-2 after the first round of the Singapore Amateur golf championship at the Serapong Golf Club.

The 20-year-old Bibat and the pint-sized Saragoza, the two best performers for the RP team in last month's Putra Cup, paced two Malaysians in the tournament that has drawn some of the finest amateurs in Southeast Asia.

Bibat, who finished sixth in the Putra Cup individual race, paces third-running Sivah Primanasudh by seven and Mohd Sukree by eight.

Their combined scores also put the Philippines on top of the standings, 9 shots ahead of Malaysia, in the three-day team competition.

The scores of Bibat and Saragoza in Singapore will be carried over to the NGAP evaluation series for the Philippines team to the World Amateur.

BIBAT: Hot start

Also yesterday, Juvic Pagunsan blitzed his home course at Canlubang with a five-under 67 to pull away from the rest of the field in the ongoing series.

Pagunsan gunned down five birdies at Cangolf's tough North course for a 352 aggregate going into the sixth round of the 144-hole series at the Aguinaldo layout today.

The 26-year-old Pagunsan is now eight-under after five rounds and looks to have a lock on one of two automatic RP team slots that will be given to the first two placers of the tournament.

Marvin Dumandan shot a 72 and stayed in second with 360, while Artemio Murakami followed a disastrous 79 at Alabang Friday with a 75.

Canlubang teammates Jun Bernis and Jay Bayron were the only others in the eight-man field to crack par, submitting identical 69s.

Meanwhile, Jayvee Agojo shot a 73 yesterday to pace the separate series for ladies.

Mark stuns Russian GM

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua intensified his bid to become the country's sixth grandmaster by beating GM Ramil Hasangatin of Russia in the fifth round Monday night of the 2nd Alushta tournament in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

Paragua stayed unbeaten in the 16-man event with two wins and three draws for 3.5 points and shared the lead with Indian IM Das Neelotpal and Russian IMs Sergey Vokarev and Alexander Obukhov.

Obukhov took the scalp of Christian Kyndel Pedersen of Denmark, Neelotpal halved the point with GM Andrey Nikitin of Russia, and Vokarev drew with six-time Turkmenistan champion IM Orazly Annagelyev.

Paragua will face Nikitin in the next round. Nikitin has drawn his first five matches.

Paragua needs to score at least 11 points in this Category IX event to earn his third and final GM norm. *Marlon Bernardino*

Realtors take first crack at SK Knights of Korea

GAME TODAY (*Caruncho Gym, Pasig City*)
Sta. Lucia Realty vs. SK Telecom

THE PBA-Korean Basketball League dual meet begins today with the Sta. Lucia Realtors taking on the SK Telecom Knights at 5 p.m. at the Caruncho Gym in Pasig City.

The SK Knights and the SBS Stars arrived yesterday for the eight-game goodwill series against local pro teams.

Beefed up by members of South Korea's national men's and junior men's players, the Knights are expected to give the Realtors a tough time.

The encounter brings back memories of the Philippines' painful loss to South Korea in the semifinals of the 2002 Busan Asian Games. And for Kenneth Duremdes and Dennis Espino, members of that all-PBA team, a victory against the Knights would be sort of consolation.

The Coca-Cola Tigers take their turn against the SK Knights at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Arellano Gym while the SBS Stars debut on Friday against the FedEx Express at 5 p.m. at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym.

"Considering the storied rivalry between the Philippines and South Korea in the sport, I'm sure this series will be very interesting," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Manny Pacquiao clueless in L.A.

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao, beltless people's world featherweight boxing champ, is in California training very hard.

He's also like a kid who has gone to market with no idea what to buy.

No, it's not exactly hopeless. He could place a call for instructions.

But there's a bigger mess. The fellow who sent him out is similarly at a loss.

It's like this. Pacquiao has reported back to Freddie Roach's world-famous Wild Card Boxing Club.

He has resumed a punishing regimen: long runs in the morning and killer gym work in the afternoon.

Sorry, but suddenly he no longer has an idea whom he will be fighting.

Pacquiao is not unlike a seasoned traveler who has hit the road with no definite destination.

***

It's not very funny how Pacquiao had been made to believe by Murad Muhammad, his US promoter, that he would be clashing again with Marco Antonio Barrera.

Barrera, who fell in fragments after being crushed by Pacquiao last November, has somewhat regained respect and following after he stopped the aging Paulie Ayala earlier this year.

The Pacquiao-Barrera rematch, initially slated this November, had promised to be a tremendous draw, mainly among Latinos and Orientals in the USA.

But before Pacquiao could leave for California, Murad called to say the rematch with Barrera was off.

Bob Arum, the sly and influential American boxing guru, has decided Barrera would instead meet undisputed world super featherweight king Erik Morales for the third time.

***

Just like that. Murad was caught with his pants down, but he could not do anything.

Murad next scrambled and ticked off a list of lesser lights, including former world junior light champ Joel Casamayor.

You're free to suspect a conspiracy. But it has become clear that, after they had split their two previous encounters, a third Morales-Barrera clash would be hard to beat at the gates.

Then there's the pay-per-view market, lionized by fans in Morales-Barrera 1 and 2, where Pacquiao has yet to prove his fame.

Anyway, latest word from under the table bared that the expected blockbuster between the two Mexican ring legends was not yet final.

Boxing expert Salven Lagumbay reported from Cebu that Barrera demanded parity and asked for a bigger purse.

***

Pacquiao, meanwhile, has started to get restless.

For sure, Arum would be lining up whoever wins between Morales and Barrera against Pacquiao.

But at least, Pacquiao, who's ready to kill himself to stay at peak form, must have an idea of his next opponent.

This is Murad's job, to sign up a worthy foe. Unfortunately, the failure of the sleek and glib promoter to nail down a big outing for the Filipino world boxing celebrity could cost him his job. Murad's contract with Pacquiao expires in February.

Yes, Murad who again has been outwitted by Bob Arum, is twice as lost as Pacquiao.

Naturally, fight fans here at home have also started to feel insulted at how Arum & Co. have snubbed Pacquiao.

They cried foul and claimed US promoters were avoiding Pacquiao because of his proven hitting power.

That should be enough to lessen Pacquiao's current frustration.

But how do you beat this report that RP's Diosdado Gabi, the WBC International flyweight titlist, has been scrapped out of his scheduled world championship clash with Thailand's Pongsaklek Wonjongkam?

It's true. In the red-light-district sport called boxing, deals are rarely finalized over the table.

***

(**BYE, SIR:** Bert Corvera, a first-class craftsman and one of the true gentlemen of Philippine journalism, passed away Monday after a lingering illness. Corvera, 67, who had served in the old Philippine Herald, was a respected editor who helped mold many of today's senior mediamen in the country. He also served as editor at the We Forum in the run-up to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos. His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Parish Church [Bahay Carmelo] on Road 8, Visayas Avenue, Project 6, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later. Please pray for this great friend.)

No-tomorrow matches in NC Final Four today

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Srs)
6 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Jrs)
**Live at Studio 23*

THE LETRAN Knights should have been mulling over their failed title defense by now. But Jonathan Aldave would have none of that.

Thanks to a three-pointer by the 6-2 swingman with just 3.2 seconds left, the Knights survived the vastly-improved Philippine Christian U Dolphins and forged a sudden death match today in the NCAA senior basketball semifinals at the Rizal Coliseum.

And the Knights will take that shot at a finals slot with gunner Ronjay Enrile back in the lineup after serving a one-game suspension.

The San Beda Lions, on the other hand, were one of the teams least expected to enter the Final Four. Not only did they qualify for the semifinals, but—following a 57-48 conquest of top-seed University of Perpetual Help—are within a win of making the championship.

And the beauty of it all is no team holds an advantage in the sudden death matches today. When San Beda takes on Perpetual at 2 p.m. and Letran battles PCU at 4, it's a free-for-all with no room for roster strengths and momentum edges.

"There's no advantage in a do-or-die game. We know they (Altas) will be back, so we'll try to adjust," said San Beda coach Nash Racela.

"There's no momentum involved here. We just have to sustain whatever we have because PCU is strong and they're the tallest team," explained Letran coach Louie Alas. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Archers . . .

From page A25

Eaglets earned the twice-to-beat advantage by edging the Junior Fighting Maroons, 75-72, in their knockout match for the No. 2 spot.

The scores:

FIRST GAME (Jrs)

ATENEO 75—Dizon 14, Reyes 11, Nadal 8, Tuason 8, Tingson 6, Perez 6, Austria 4, Medina 4, Gamboa 4, Fernandez 3, Chiu 3, Santos 2, Abellada 2, Manlapaz 0.

UPIS 72—Oliveros 17, Villanueva 16, De Peralta 15, Olan 11, Moniego 10, Bautista 2, Marfori 1, Catanaoan 0, Aranas 0.

Quarters: 22-13, 43-33, 61-50, 75-72.

SECOND GAME (Srs)

LA SALLE 82—Cardona 20, Yeo 16, Casio 10, Araña 8, Benitez 7, Gaco 6, Cabatu 6, Maierhoffer 5, Villanueva 4, Tang 0, Gavino 0.

ATENEO 69—Tenorio 22, Bugia 14, Kramer 8, Del Rosario 8, Membrere 6, Intal 6, Tiu 6, Arao 2, Barracoso 0, Quimson 0, Escalona 0

Quarters: 21-17, 41-34, 62-49, 82-69

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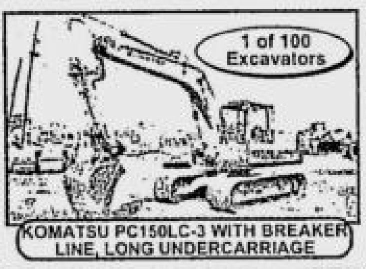
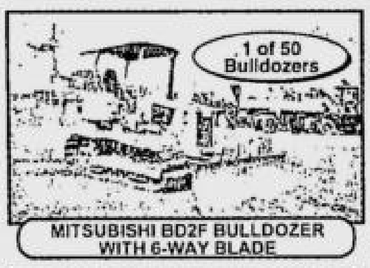

1 of 100 Excavators
KOMATSU PC150LC-3 WITH BREAKER LINE, LONG UNDERCARRIAGE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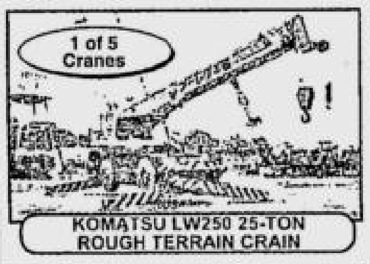
MITSUBISHI BD2F BULLDOZER WITH 6-WAY BLADE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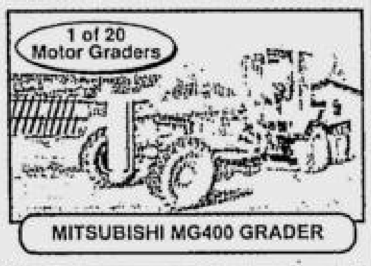
KOMATSU LW250 25-TON ROUGH TERRAIN CRAIN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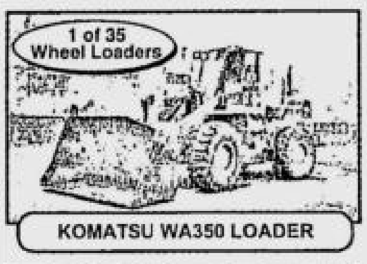
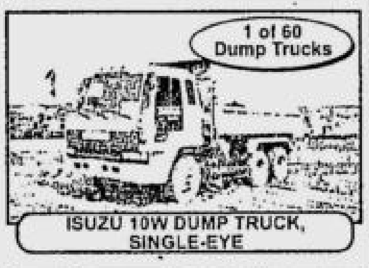
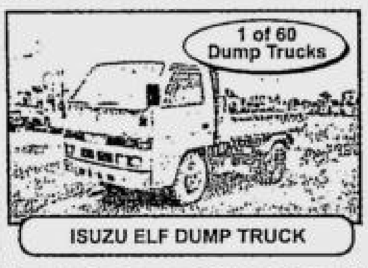
MITSUBISHI MG400 GRADER


1 of 35 Wheel Loaders
KOMATSU WA350 LOADER


1 of 60 Dump Trucks
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK, SINGLE-EYE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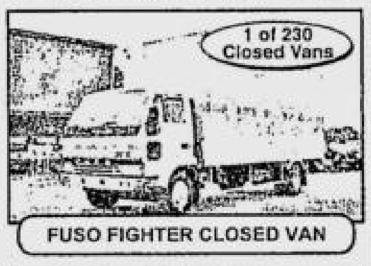
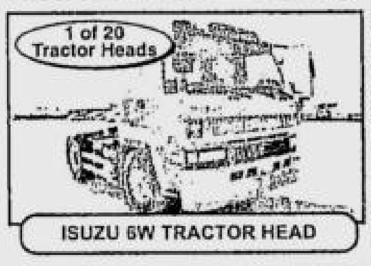
ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK


1 of 230 Closed Vans
FUSO FIGHTER CLOSED VAN

1 of 20 Wing Vans
ISUZU FORWARD FRR WING VAN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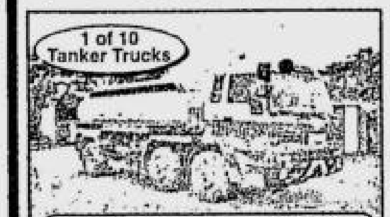
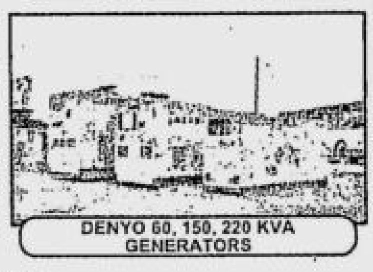
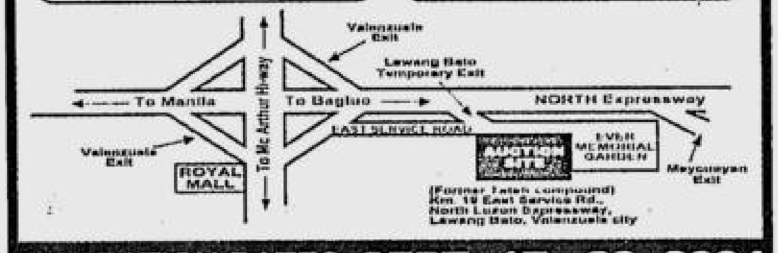
ISUZU 6W TRACTOR HEAD


1 of 10 Tanker Trucks
ISUZU TANK LORRY


DENYO 60, 150, 220 KVA GENERATORS



INSPECTION DATES: SEPT. 17 - 22, 2004
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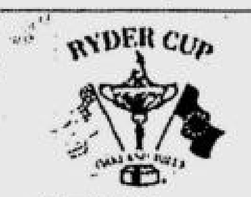

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BMW 318i Exec.	2003	Orient Blue	11,700km	P2,100,000
BMW 318i Exec.	2004	Titanium Silver	9,900km	P2,200,000

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BMW 325i Exec.	2004	Titanium Silver	9,700km	P2,690,000
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BMW 316i 1999 Titanium Silver, 46,000km P950,000	**BMW 316i** 2001 Fern Green, 35,800km P1,150,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 12,500km P2,150,000	**BMW 325i Exec.** 2004 Titanium Silver, 17,900km P2,590,000	***BMW 318tds** 1996 Arktis Silver, 62,300km P850,000
BMW 316i 2000 Alpine White, 23,200km P1,050,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2001 Black Sapphire, 29,200km P1.525,000	**BMW 318i Exec.** 2004 Black Sapphire, 5,300km P2,150,000	**BMW 525i Exec.** 2004 Alpine White, 5,400km P4,200,000	***BMW 523i** 1996 Glacier Green, 52,000km P1,400,000

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2 US cagers beef up Spring-Laguna for Brunei tilt

SPRING Cooking Oil-Laguna will be reinforced by two talented Americans when it competes in the Sultan Cup invitational basketball tournament in Brunei from Sept. 20 to Oct. 1.

The two are 6-foot-9 slotman Faheem Nelson and 6-foot-6 guard Keith Friel.

"We expect to get a lot of help from these veteran players," said playing coach Mike Buendia.

The other members of the team co-owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro are Nani Epondulan, Robin Mendoza, Mar Reyes, Marlon Kalaw, Rodel Manuel, Mike Garcia, Chris Corbin, Danny Capobres and Christian Nicdao.

Tito Palma, NBC (National Basketball Conference) secretary general, is the delegation head. Dennis Lazaro is the team manager and former PBA star Vic Sanchez is the assistant coach.

Two other Philippine teams—Red Bull Barako and Purefoods TJ Hotdogs—will see action in the tournament together with the Shanghai Sharks, Taiwan's Chuon Tzu Yu Lon and South Korea's TG Sambo Xers.

The Cooking Oil Masters meet the Taiwanese on Sept. 21 and the Koreans on Sept. 22 in the preliminary round of the event which offers an estimated P1 million for the champion.

"We are honored to be invited to this prestigious event," said Padilla and Governor Lazaro, whose team is currently on top of the North division in the ongoing NBC tournament.

Nelson played for three US colleges—Southern Idago, LA Valley and Biola University before turning pro. He led his team, Hamar, to the Iceland (Intersport) League playoffs where he averaged 18 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks per game.

Friel was named New Hampshire player of the year in his senior year and was a three-time First Team All State Selection member.

Buendia, Corbin, Epondulan and Manuel played for Goh Brothers, which won the title last year when the event was limited to Brunei clubs spiced up by Filipino players.

Echavez powers Ozamiz five

OZAMIZ CITY—Former pro Egay Echavez waxed hot with a game-high 28 points as the Ozamiz Cotta quashed any hope of the Cagayan de Oro Stars to gain the homecourt advantage in the playoffs with an 88-83 victory Monday in the NBC national championship at the Gov. Angel Medina gym here.

The 5-foot-8 ex-Purefoods point guard sank five triples and had four rebounds, four assists and two steals to help Ozamiz clinch the No. 2 slot in the South division with a 9-5 card.

The Warriors lost for the eighth time in 10 games and dropped to fourth place in the same division of the tournament.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 88—Echavez 28, Basco 17, Guerrero 10, Marquez 9, Alminario 6, Basilides 5, Ferraren 4, Cabigkis 2, Libatog 2, Cabrera 2, Araman 2, Sampilo 1, Guiyab 0.

CdO 83—Alfeche 22, Capati 15, Navales 15, Tolentino 10, Alcantara 9, Sese 4, Culdora 4, Numeran 4, Royo 0, Lantong 0, Jabagat 0, Jimenez 0, Tagarda 0, Póng 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 45-39, 65-57, 88-83.

Mariano blasts Paragua seeding

SEEDING Filipino chess players to major tournaments such as the World Chess Olympiad would be detrimental to the development of the sport in the country and diminishes the hopes of other players to compete for the Philippines overseas.

This was the response of Nelson Mariano, the country's latest Grandmaster, yesterday to plans by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines to seed International Master Mark Paragua to the 36th Chess Olympiad.

"It's very unfair. I have nothing against (Mark) Paragua, but the system is very wrong," Mariano said.

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building EDSA Greenhills Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF
FLASH FINANCE CORP: APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. No. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located in Consolacion, Cebu.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P 40,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	2,500,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
Peter A. Yap	Chairman/President
Yok A. Yap, Jr	Director/Vice-President
Lily V. Tan	Director/Treasurer
Nelson C. Arendain	Director
Jocelyn L. Magpily	Director
Jiselle Anne B. Velayo	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippine once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicious place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8556, the Implementation Rules and Regulation and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.
August 24, 2004

(Sgd.) JUSTINA P. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 15, 2004)

IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain closd contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. (63-2) 632-4231; Fax No. (63-2) 636-2567

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY
IN-PLANT TRAVEL SERVICES AT ADB HEADQUARTERS
(Contract ADB/OAS-2004/056)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites well-established IATA-accredited travel agencies operating in the Philippines to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding to select a contractor for the provision of In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters at ADB Building, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. For more information on ADB, you may access its website, www.adb.org
2. The contractor's services include provision of travel services with qualified and experienced personnel in the ADB premises to meet the business travel requirements of ADB which include documentation services for visas and passports for ADB staff (outbound) and guests (inbound). The scope of work is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from travel agencies, with legal authority to operate in the Philippines, including companies and joint venture of local and/or foreign[1] agencies, and meeting the minimum criteria for prequalification by (i) one of the joint venture members; (ii) the lead firm of the joint venture; or (iii) all partners combined, as provided in the notice to be found in the Business Opportunities page of www.adb.org
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from Contracts Administration, Room 4219, at the above address, from **15-28 September 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, Call D. Munoz at (632) 632-4231 or L. Cruz at (632) 632-4452 or fax (632) 636-2567 to receive the documents. Requests for electronic copies can also be made by email: dmunoz@adb.org
5. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the Head, Contracts Administration at Room 4223, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines. These should be received not later than **5:00 p.m. on 29 September 2004**, and be clearly marked "Application for Pre-qualification to In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters".
6. The Invitation to Bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicants who pass the minimum prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified.
7. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents, without providing reasons therefor.
8. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

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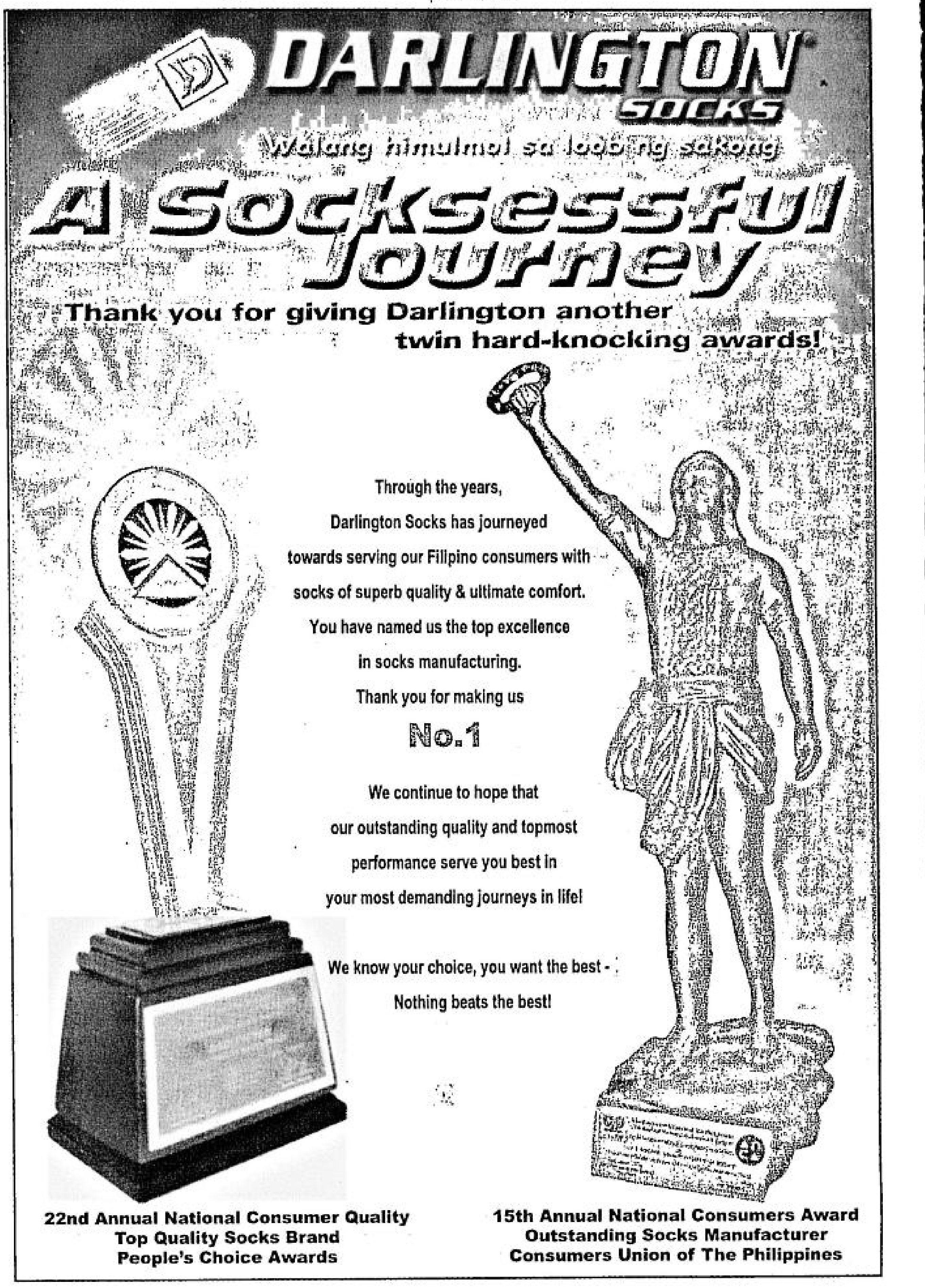
[1] From ADB member countries

(PDI-Sept 14 & 15, 2004)



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PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Buy the following Thunderbird products: Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate or Conditioner, Thunderbird Enertone, and Thunderbird Bexan XP.
2. Enclose in a legal size envelope the empty packs of Thunderbird Bexan XP, Thunderbird Enertone and any of the two Thunderbird Multi-Grain products (Concentrate or Conditioner); then write your name, age, address, phone number, signature and the name of the store in a piece of paper.
3. Send your entry to:

   Thunderbird Power Trio Promo
   Sarimanok Feeds Co., Inc.
   86 Mayflower St., Mandaluyong City

4. Promo is nationwide.
5. There will be 3 winners in each monthly draw and in the grand draw (one for each area: GMA, Luzon and Vis-Min.), which will be held at # 86 Mayflower St., Mandaluyong City. A BFAD representative will be present during the draw.
6. The schedule for the draws are as follows:
   1st monthly draw: October 3, 2004
   2nd monthly draw: November 7, 2004
   3rd monthly draw: December 5, 2004
   Grand draw: January 9, 2005
7. Each monthly winner will get a gamefowl Power Trio plus Thunderbird gift packs, while the grand draw winners will each get a Gamefowl Power Trio plus a Breeder's Showcase.
8. Winners can choose their Power Trio from the following bloodlines: Sweater, Roundhead, Kelso and Hatch.
9. The winner's store partner will get P10,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products in the monthly draw, and in the grand draw, can get P20,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products.
10. Winners will be called and/or notified via mail.
11. Promo starts September 1, 2004 and ends December 31, 2004.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1030 series of 2004

Champs' reunion in Roxas Camel moto

TOP RIDERS Jovie Saulog and Glen Aguilar resume their storied duel when the Camel Motocross Championship Series returns to the sporting scene in Roxas City this Sunday.

One of the most-awaited summer events in the 1980s and '90s, Camel Motocross will also visit Bacolod City on Oct. 10 and Iloilo City on Nov. 28 as it springs back to life after a five-year hiatus.

Aguilar, a seven-time national champion, six-time winner Saulog and rising star Kenneth San Andres head riders seeing action in the Pro Open category of the event being held in cooperation with National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association consultant Jojo Roldan of Roxas City.

PDI PHOTOS

LEONGSON

AGUILAR

SAN ANDRES

"It would be the motocross event to watch this year," said FIM (Federation Internationale de Motorcycliste) Asian Motocross and Enduro Commission president Macky Carapiet.

Namssa vice president Arthur Valdez said the races will be a "reunion of champions."

Other touted riders like four-time titlist Jolet Jao and two-time winner Ernie Leongson are expected to see action in the Bacolod and Iloilo legs, according to Camel brand marketing manager Edward Cruz.

Hawks, Scorpions a win away from title playoff

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Manila and Centro Escolar University moved closer to a championship clash after scoring big victories over their respective rivals yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) Final Four at the Makati Coliseum.

Displaying their usual flair, the Hawks disposed of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay Eagles, 86-72, and stretched their winning streak in the four-year-old league to 69.

Earlier, the CEU Scorpions shocked favorite St. Clare College of Caloocan Saints, 77-70, to also gain a 1-0 edge—like the Hawks—in their best-of-three series.

The Hawks and the Scorpions can arrange a best-of-five title clash with victories tomorrow at the Rizal Coliseum and UM Gym.

Ryan Regalado wreaked havoc on the Eagles' defenses with 21 points, six assists and four rebounds.

CEU snipers June Macasaet and Frederick Salamat hit three consecutive triples in the final five minutes to punish the shaky St. Clare defense.

The scores:

FIRST GAME

CEU 77—Salamat 14, Macasaet 13, Carillo 13, Cordero 9, Tobis 6, Manajero 6, F. Romulo 6, Cristobal 4, Gatdula 4, Dayag 2.

ST. CLARE 70—Deveraturda 14, Manalansan 14, Manas 11, Gerladino 6, Yambao 4, Diswe 3, J. Dizon 3, Manalili 2, Balanay 2.

Quarters: 15-15, 35-40, 56-53, 77-70

SECOND GAME

UM 86—Regalado 21, Salem 18, Uao 11, Santiago 10, Gomez 9, Litonjua 6, Delostrinos 5, Vidanes 2, Bernados 2, Facun 2.

PLP 72—David 19, Nuqui 14, Asay 11, Somera 9, Gumapas 9, Go-bon 6, Navo 3, Galimba 2, Galindez 0, Gawat 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 43-36, 70-53, 86-72.

First Gent inducts Patafa officers

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo swears in the new national executive board of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association today at the Century Park Sheraton.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio F. Fernandez Jr. and Go Teng Kok lead the list of inductees as chair and president, respectively.

"The 2004 Patafa board is laden with people known for their competence and qualifications," Go, who is serving his 13th year as athletics president, said.

PSC chair Eric Buhain, POC president Celso Dayrit and presidents of national sports associations are expected to grace the affair.

The other members of the Patafa board are former PSC commissioners Dr. Anthony Nicanor, ex-Mayor Ray Roquero and Dr. Eli Nicolas Bontigao, who will serve as regional and sectoral directors, and ex-PSC executive director Lucrecio Calo.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No.: PB040521-EL0071 / PR No.: WVP-04-6786

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSCO,** wishes to invite interested parties who are qualified for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Item	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
1-13	Supply and Delivery of Power, Control, Instrumentation and Grounding Cables	WVP-04-6786	P 8,989,624.00

1. The Bidding Documents will be available for issuance starting **September 13, 2004 to October 6, 2004** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 A.M. of October 7, 2004** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **September 24, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.,** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman,. Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)

PAMBANSANG
PANGASIWAAN
SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO. (632) 712-3341 TO 54 FAX NO.: (532) 712-1110 E-mail www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of Various Laboratory Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center as follows:

	Equipment/Item	Quantity	Total Approved Budget
A.	CHEMISTRY SECTION		
1.	Sample Concentrator with Dry Block Heater	1	P 273,000
2.	Ultrasonic Cleaner, Long Bed	1	150,000
3.	Kjeldahl Distillation Unit & Accessories	1	900,000
4.	Muffle Furnace	2	740,000
5.	Refrigerated Circulator	1	165,000
6.	Thermohygrometer	4	70,000
7.	Adjustable Volume Pipettor	2	40,000
8.	Analytical balance	1	220,000
9.	pH Meter	1	100,000
10.	Elisa Reader and Accessories	1	500,000
B.	MICROBIOLOGY SECTION		
1.	pH Meter	1	250,000
2.	Compact Panel Mount Thermohygrometers	3	52,500
3.	Laboratory Cart	2	100,000
4.	Dispensette	4	100,000
5.	Pipette Jars	3	30,000
6.	Pipette Washer	1	25,000
7.	Chlorine Test Kits (1 set)	1	35,000
8.	Hepa Filters for Clean Bench	13	260,000
9.	NIST, Traceable Thermometer -1 to 101 C	1	20,000
10.	Pipettor		96,000
C.	QUALITY CONTROL		
1.	Thermometer reader w/ Penetration probes	3	60,000
2.	Infra-red Moisture Meter	1	135,000
3.	Chlorine test kit (w/ DPD reagent tablet)	1	25,000
D.	PHYSICAL AND SENSORY	2	60,000
1.	Electronic Laboratory Top Loading Balance	1	100,000
2.	Thermocouple Thermometer Recorder	1	35,000
	or Meter with penetration probes	2	60,000
3.	Metrological Weight Set	1	80,000
E.	TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION		
1.	Analytical Weights, Class E2	1	240,000
2.	Standard Weights, Class F1	1	100,000
F.	SHELF-LIFE TESTING		
1.	Glass Dessicator	2	92,000
G.	THERMAL PROCESS		
1.	ASTM Glass Thermometer	1	35,000
		TOTAL	P 5,088,500.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

September 8 - 22, 2004	Submission of Letter of Intent, Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements including issuance of bid documents
September 23, 2004 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Flr., NFA
October 5, 2004 (10:00 AM)	Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA
(9:00-9:45 PM)	Submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals
(10:00 AM)	Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility requirements maybe secured from the BAC Secretariat, 10th Floor Matimyas Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of Letter of Intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee. Any eligible bidder can bid for one or all of the items. For further inquiries, you may call at Tel. No. 712-6815 (Roger) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 8925.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman BAC
Administrative and Support Services

(PDI – September 8, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL, POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement/s:

Date/Time & Place of Bidding	October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No.	PB104-2004-232
Specification	PR # PB104-2004-232 1. INDICATOR, PRESSURE Model: w-311; Range: 0 – 6 kg/m2; Ampere: 4 – 20 MA 2. INDICATOR, PRESSURE Model: w – 311; Range: 0 – 10 kg/m2; Ampere: 4 – 20 MA
Approved Budget	PB 104-2004-232 – P873,600.00
Pre Bid Conference	September 27, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Submission of First & Second Envelope; Opening/Evaluation of first Envelope (Technical Documents)	October 11, 2004, 10:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Bulfa – BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telefax number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00 starting September 15, 2004 to October 5, 2004 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184. Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A bidders Bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% Bank Guarantee; 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond.

A Performance Bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and B) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON J. HOMENA
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI – Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C.M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-60-65 / (088) 856-1738 / 856-1739 Telefax (088) 856-4696

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mindanao Polytechnic State College through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for:

Name of Project : Lease-To-Own Contract for the following:

1 Unit	Server
60 Units	Personal Computer
3 Units	Switch
1 Lot	Structured Cabling

Approved Budget : PhP 3,380,000.00
Funding Source : Students Library Computerization Collection

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES :

1. Pre-Bid Conference – September 28, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. – Conference Room
2. Deadline for submission of Documents for Eligibility Check – October 13, 2004
3. Opening of Bids – October 13, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. – Conference Room

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding documents can be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat with Tel. No. 856-1739 "136", upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND (PhP 1,000.00), starting September 29, 2004 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MPSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formality or defects and to make an award to the propsal most advantageous to the MPSC. The MPSC neither assumes no obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) CESAR C. ESQUINAS
Chairman

(PDI – September 15, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
LEYTE NORMAL UNIVERSITY
TACLOBAN CITY

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR THE SELECTION OF THE LEYTE NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENCY

Minimum Personal Qualifications of the SUC Presidency:

1. Preferably be at least forty (40) years old but not more than 61 years old on the date of the application for the position.
2. Must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines.
3. A holder of a Doctoral Degree.
4. Must have a proven track record as top administrator (at least Deanship level), whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by a document (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the university.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Note : Qualified applicants must submit their accomplished pro-forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form and Curriculum Vitaé (CV) Forms to the Office of the Board Secretary, LNU Board of Regents together with the following supporting documents.

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé
2. Xerox Copy of Transcript of Records or Diplomas
3. Neuro-psychiatric Evaluation Result
4. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
5. Clearance Certificates from the following:
    a. Ombudsman
    b. Sandigan Bayan
    c. Civil Service Commission
    d. National Bureau of Investigation
6. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Development Plant for the university within a four-year period.

Important : Applicants must submit six (6) sets/copies each of their Pro-Forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form, CV Forms and all supporting documents mentioned above not later than **October 29, 2004**. The Pro-forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form and CV Forms can be obtained from the Office of the Board Secretary of the LNU Board of Regents, LNU, Paterno St., Tacloban City.

(PDI – Sept. 15 & 30, 2004)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG LUPON SA MGA YAMANG TUBIG
(National Water Resources Board)
8th Floor, NIA Building, Epifanio delos Santos Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-27-24 / 928-23-65 / 920-27-93
Fax: 920-26-41
Telefax: 920-26-41 / 920-26-34 / 928-47-02
url address: http:\ www.nwrb.gov.ph
e-mail address: rdm@nwrb.gov.ph

SAN MIGUEL PROPERTIES, INC.
Petitioner Case No. 04-957
x--x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner requests for the approval of the Deed of Donation of the water supply service owned and operated by San Miguel Properties, Inc., within Legacy Subdivision, B.F. Homes, Las Piñas City in favor of **The Legacy Homeowners Association, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that this application will be heard by the board on **October 6, 2004, at 9:30 in the morning at the NWRB-WUD, Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Bldg., EDSA, Quezon City** at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, Petitioner shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner.

Failure on the part of any affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard, and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the petition based on the evidences submitted.

Failure by the Petitioner to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant petition shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the National Water Resources Board this 16th day of August 2004.

By Authority of the Board:

(Sgd.) RAMON B. ALIKPALA
Executive Director

(PDI--Sept. 15, 2004)

Southern Luzon Technological College Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with **Edigitalweb**, a US-based company is in need of the following:

1. Web Programmer

- ☐ Direct professional experience using PHP, PERL, MYSQL, APACHE, and LINUX/UNIX
- ☐ Experience in developing E-commerce projects
- ☐ Result-oriented, team player

2. Content Writer

- ☐ Bachelor's Degree in Advertising, English, Journalism, Mass Communication from a reputable school.
- ☐ 2+ years experience in writing, editing, and research
- ☐ Knowledge in automotive industry preferred
- ☐ Must be creative, open-minded and innovative

3. Web Designer

- ☐ Proficient in Photoshop / Illustrator / Quark / HTML / Dreamweaver
- ☐ Minimum of 2 years work experience in web design
- ☐ Effective working in team environment

4. Web Marketing Analyst

- ☐ Bachelor's Degree in Business, English, Journalism, Advertising, or Communications from a reputable university.
- ☐ 2+ years experience in online marketing. Search engine marketing, optimization and paid advertising strongly preferred.
- ☐ Search engine optimization, pay-per-click advertising, and affiliate marketing experience highly desirable.
- ☐ Excellent verbal communication skills and an ability to work individually on a project or in a team environment.

5. Linux Server Administrator

- ☐ Expert in Redhat Linux/Fedora and Apache
- ☐ Professional experience in troubleshooting, providing information on logs and system behavior, configuring plug-ins, modules and documentation
- ☐ Proficient in database management systems including MYSQL.

Send all resumes to tracy@edigitalweb.com

Federer's next goal: Slam record

Swiss a threat to Sampras' mark

NEW YORK—Roger Federer, who has just won his first US Open, is in many people's minds a threat to Pete Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

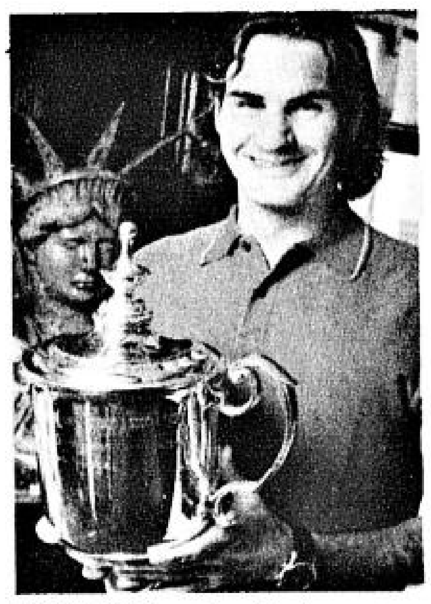
Sampras won his last Grand Slam title two years ago at the US Open and then decided to retire.

Federer outclassed Australian Lleyton Hewitt in straight sets in Sunday's championship match to capture his fourth major in his last six Grand Slams.

Federer put on such a brilliant display of power and precision tennis that when asked who could have beaten the Swiss maestro on this day, Hewitt could only think of one name.

"I don't think anyone in the actual tournament," Hewitt said. "Maybe Pete Sampras."

If he is to catch Sampras, Federer will have to pick up the pace. Sampras won his fourth Grand Slam title at 22 and Federer just turned 23.


FEDERER: More trophies to come.

Federer, whose mother is South African and father is Swiss, started playing tennis at age 8 and grew up idolizing Sampras.

He says he doesn't like to celebrate too much after a win and gets pleasure from the simple things in life like sitting on a beach and playing ping pong. But his goals are high.

One goal he is not ready to contemplate quite yet is the one everyone would love to see—four Grand Slams in a single season. The last person to do it was Rod Laver in 1969.

His four Slam victories so close together is the best performance since Sampras won four of five Grand Slam tournaments between 1993-94.

A definite short-term goal would be to win the 2005 French Open which would complete a career Grand Slam. He has won two Wimbledons (2003, 2004) and an Australian Open (2004).

Federer became the first player to win three Grand Slams in one year since Mats Wilander in 1988 and the first to win his first four Grand Slam finals.

"I think he's got every chance to go down as one of the best ever," England's Tim Henman said, adding that to beat Federer you would need some kind of supercharged being.

"If you take (Andy) Roddick's serve and (Andre) Agassi's returns and my volleys and Hewitt's speed and tenacity, then you've probably got a good chance against Federer. That's a lot of people involved in one player." *AFP*

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HOW serious do golfers treat the Ryder Cup? Phil Mickelson arrives early at Oakland Hills to start practicing. AFP

Nothing stays still in Ryder Cup

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan—Vijay Singh and Mike Weir provided a preview of the Ryder Cup, even though neither will be playing at Oakland Hills this week.

There was a noise, so defeaning that Weir had to force a yawn to pop his ears when he got to the tee.

The pressure was so great that Weir felt the weight of a nation riding on his every shot at the Canadian Open, where some 40,000 fans were eager to celebrate one of their own claiming the championship for the first time in 50 years.

Crowds were so partisan that they could not stifle cheers when Singh missed a putt.

And that's a big part of the Ryder Cup, which gets under way Friday in a biennial match that transforms the sport from genteel appreciation of good golf to a football mentality of "Us versus Them."

Ten players don't know what to expect—the United States and Europe have five Ryder Cup rookies.

How intense does it get?

"The only thing that stands still is the shaft of the club, and that's before you take the club out of the bag," two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal once said. "Everything shakes—hands, legs, everything."

Monday was as quiet as it will get all week at Oakland Hills.

Phil Mickelson arrived in the Detroit area Sunday night and was the first player at Oakland Hills on a day when the course was not opened to the public. Jim Furyk and Fred Funk arrived later for some casual practice.

The European team left Heathrow Airport in London aboard a Virgin Atlantic flight—complete with beauty attendants to give them a massage—and arrived just after 5 p.m. Monday. Langer, the European captain, cleared customs with the trophy in hand.

"What is this you have here?" United States captain Hal Sutton said after greeting him.

"Just a little something." Langer said. "We'll fight for it the next few days."

The shiny gold trophy was passed around during the flight.

"It was everywhere on the plane," Langer said. "We took some memorable pictures. It was nice to have it in my grasp." *AP*

WBC champ chickens out on RP's Gabi

WORLD Boxing Council flyweight champ Pongsaklek Wongjongkam is considered by many boxing experts as the world's best 112-pounder. Until yesterday.

Wongjongkam, who was slated to face Filipino Diosdado Gabi on Oct. 8 at the Arcadia Hilton Hotel in Phuket, Thailand, apparently had a change of heart and opted to face another fighter in Carlos Bouchan-Salazar for no obvious reason.

Bukidnon-based Leonil Lazarito, who acted as the negotiator between the two camps, will try to save the Pongsaklek-Gabi fight.

"Actually, the Thai camp has nothing to be worried about. Their boy has a big advantage in experience," said Lazaro, who will persuade Thailand's Papa Bonyoong to continue on with the fight. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Deposed swim head calls polls unlawful

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BELEAGUERED swimming president Chito Ilagan claimed yesterday that he still maintained control of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association and accused Mark Joseph and his group of violating the bylaws they themselves authored.

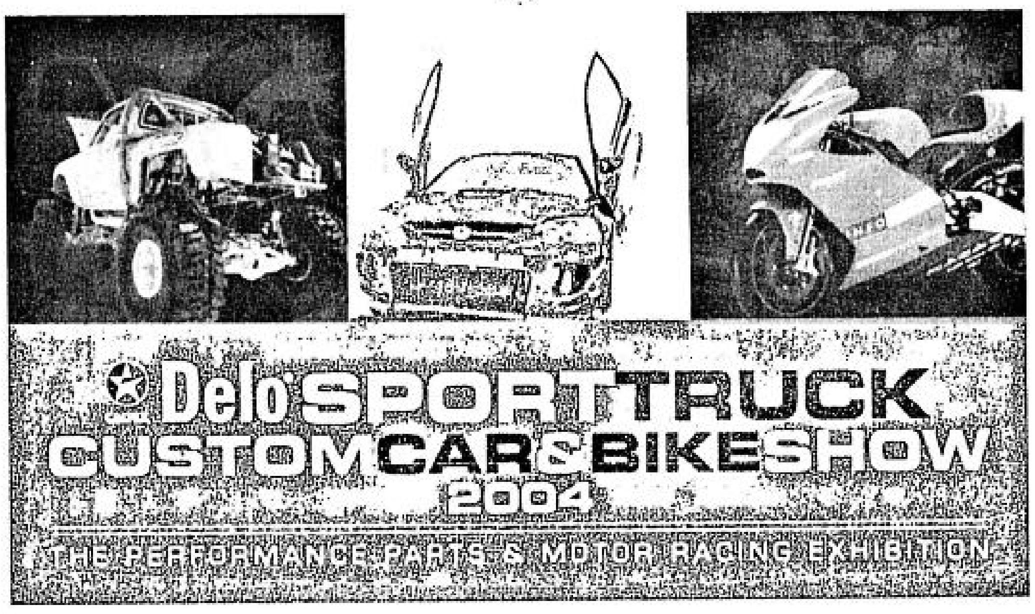
Joseph, elected president in Cebu City recently by a breakaway faction, refuted the claim.

Ilagan showed the press a copy of the POC recognition signed by secretary general Romy Ribaño that proved his claim to legitimacy and branded the Cebu meeting where he was deposed as "a desperate attempt by a small group within the association to wrest control of the Pasa by unlawful means."

Joseph, however, said there is no provision in the Pasa bylaws preventing him from taking the presidency, citing a precedent where businessman Wilfred Uytengsu became Pasa chief in the '90s.

Ilagan's group will push through with their scheduled Sept. 18 meeting in Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon, to elect a new set of officers. Ilagan said he expects at least 10 regional directors to show up in the meeting.

Ilagan said four of the board members who ousted him were already replaced, namely, Ike Buan (NCR), Dale Law (Region 7), Rosario (Region 1) and former president Eddie Boy Ledesma (Region 6). However, the four directors claimed they were removed by illegal means because they weren't informed of the elections that happened in their respective regions.


Delo SPORTTRUCK CUSTOM CAR & BIKE SHOW 2004
THE PERFORMANCE PARTS & MOTOR RACING EXHIBITION

SEPT 29 - OCT 3, 2004
Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall 5th Level, Bldg. B

EVENTHIGHLIGHTS

September 29	Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies	10:30AM
September 29 - Oct. 2	Judging Dates	10:00AM - 8:30PM
October 3	Awarding Ceremonies	3:00PM

SEMINARSCHEDULE

September 29 (Wednesday)	4x4 Fundamentals by: Landcruiser Club of the Phils.	4:00PM - 5:30PM
	Experienced Rider Seminar: Group Riding by: Motorcycle Riders Course	5:30PM - 7:00PM
September 30 (Thursday)	Car Audio 101: Basic Knowledge Before Buying by: Vicente Pena (A+Audio)	2:30PM - 4:00PM
	How to Start Drag Racing by: Phil. Drag Racing Familysport	4:00PM - 5:30PM
	Basics of Car Bodykits & Designs by: Options Unlimited	5:30PM - 7:00PM
October 1 (Friday)	Basics in Circuit Racing by: Sports Values Inc.	2:30PM - 4:00PM
	Basic Rider Seminar: Cars & Bikes: A Shared Road Riding Straight: Alcohol, Drug & Bikes by: Motorcycle Riders Course	4:00PM - 5:30PM
	Basics on 4x4 Racing by: Manila Off Roaders Inc.	5:30PM - 7:00PM
October 2 (Saturday)	Custom Car Technology In Japan by: Minoru Goko Nihon Automobile College (Japan)	2:30PM - 4:00PM
	Basics on 4x4 Racing by: Manila Off Roaders Inc.	4:00PM - 5:30PM
	Slalom Racing Technique by: Race Motorsports Club	5:30PM - 7:00PM

TEL 671 8381/ 671 3122 FAX 671 8382 info@tradeshow.com.ph www.tradeshow.com.ph

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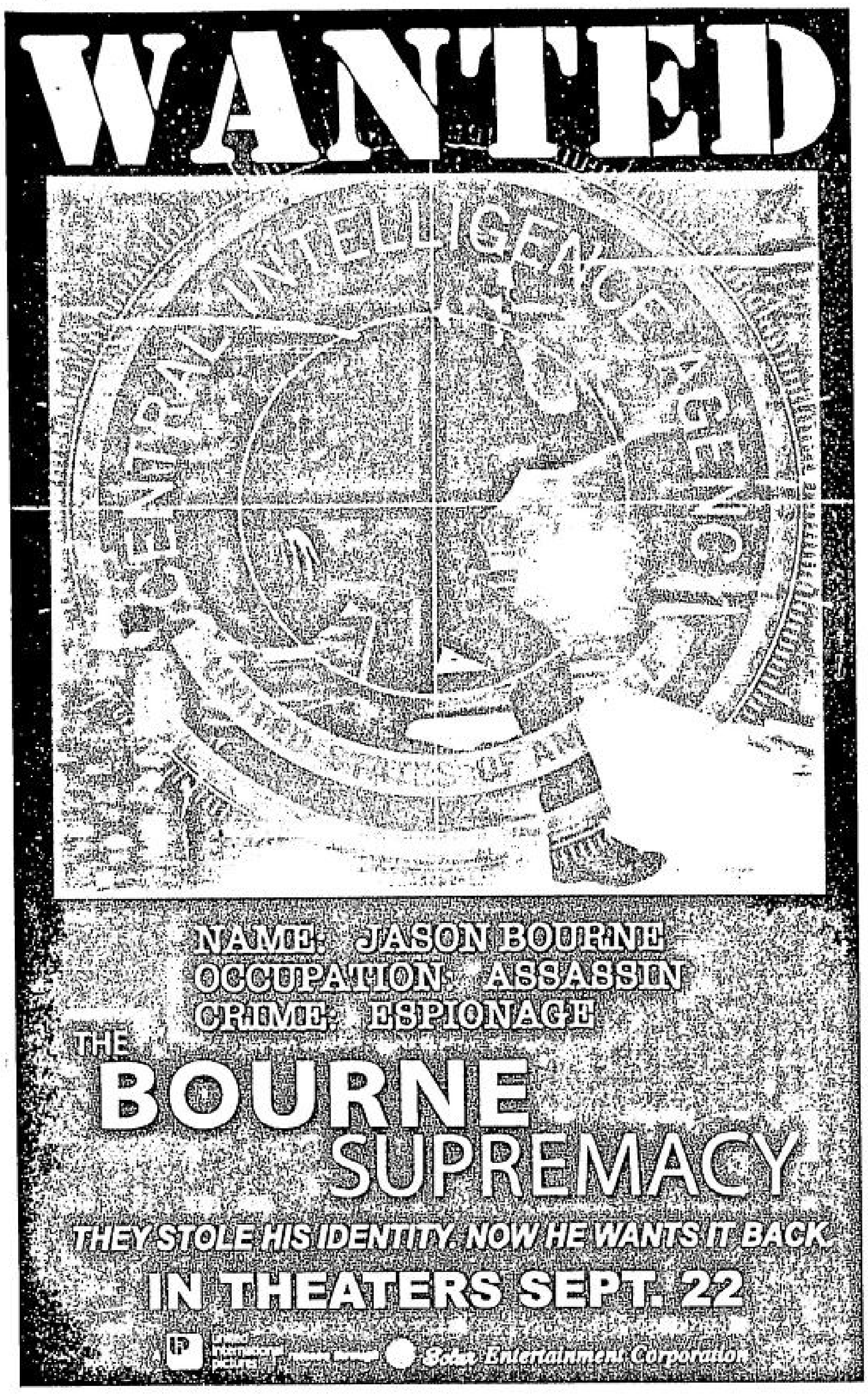

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OCCUPATION: ASSASSIN
CRIME: ESPIONAGE

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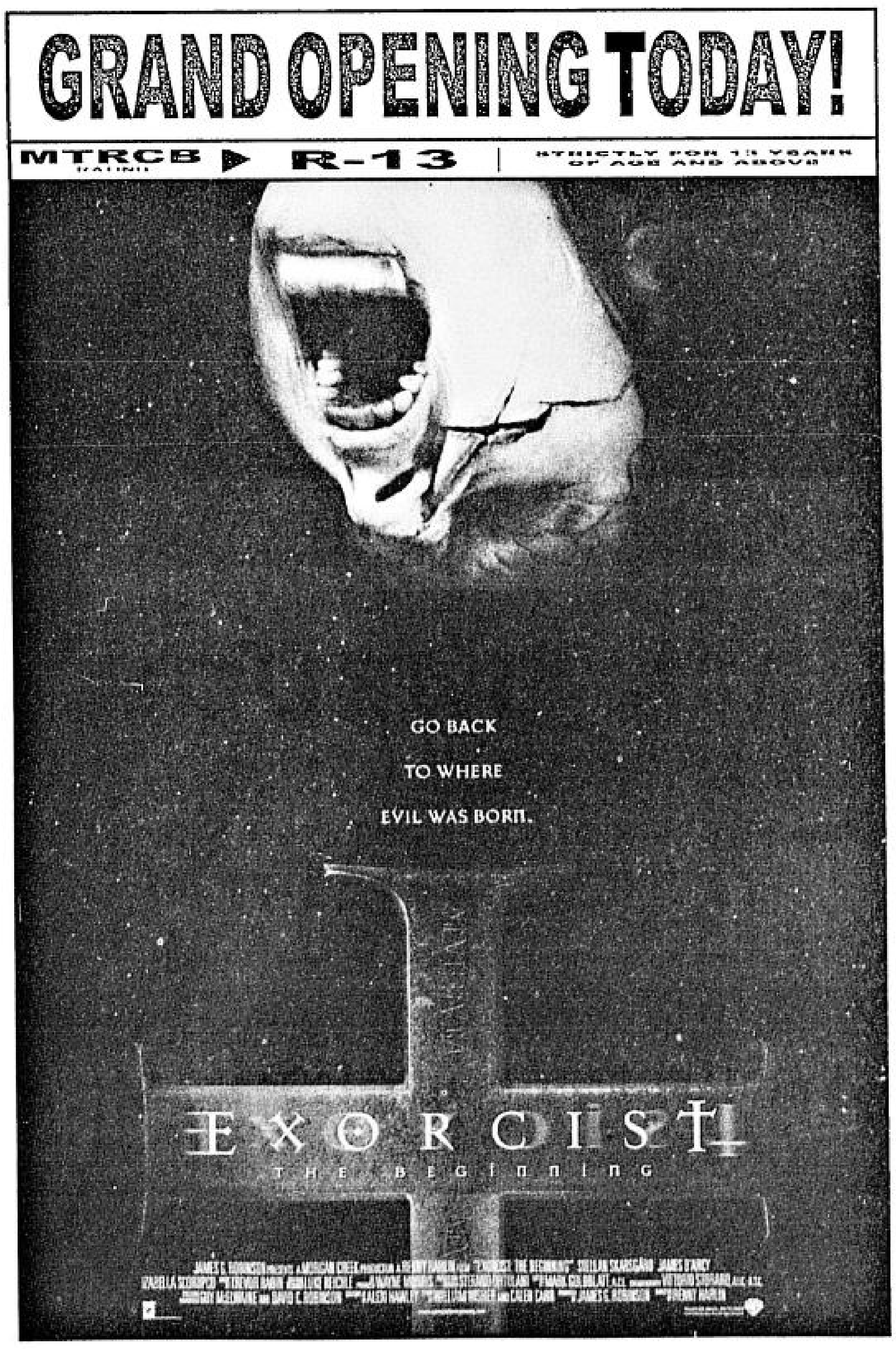
IN THEATERS SEPT. 22

Solar Entertainment Corporation



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1	13 GOING ON 30	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:10	PG-13
2	THE EXORCIST	11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20	R-13
3	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:20	GP
4	FENG SHUI	10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:20	PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DODGEBALL PG13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	13 GOING ON 30 PG13 12:00,2:00,4:05 ,6:10,8:15,10:20	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:05
FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	MINDHUNTERS R13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	TERMINAL GP 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

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star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
- Panas
- Exorcist
- Feng Shui

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
- Mind Hunters
- Feng Shui
- Tag-init
- Anacondas
- Exorcist
- 13 going 30

starmall LAS PINAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
- Feng Shui
- Thunder Birds

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① 13 GOING ON 30
MTRCB Rating : (PG-13)

② FENG SHUI
MTRCB Rating : (PG-13)

③ THE TERMINAL
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

④ EXORCIST : The Beginning
MTRCB Rating : (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE | MINDHUNTERS
MTRCB Rating : (R-13)

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
13 GOING ON 30
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45,
8:00, 10:15
PG13

CINEMA 2
EXORCIST
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20,
10:00
R13

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September 24 & 25	SHERYN REGIS ON A HIGHER NOTE	8:30PM

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MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

"THUMBS UP! SEE IT!"
EBERT & ROEPER

"A FEEL GOOD COMEDY THAT WILL KEEP YOU SMILING."

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30.'"
USA TODAY

jennifer garner

13 going on 30

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Show biz stories, Sections A2, A3

ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	FENG SHUI	11:35 amn 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS	EXORCIST	12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
5	dts	ANACONDAS	12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby	THE TERMINAL	11:40 am 2:00 pm 4:20 pm 6:40 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	MIND HUNTERS	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	ATENEO vs LA SALLE
Sep 22	NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Sep 23	UAAP CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY, LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIKTIMA / NAIIBANG HAYOP
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	FENG SHUI
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	TAG-INIT
CINEMA-3	TOOLBOX MURDER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GODSEND
CINEMA-6	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-8	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-12	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-14	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

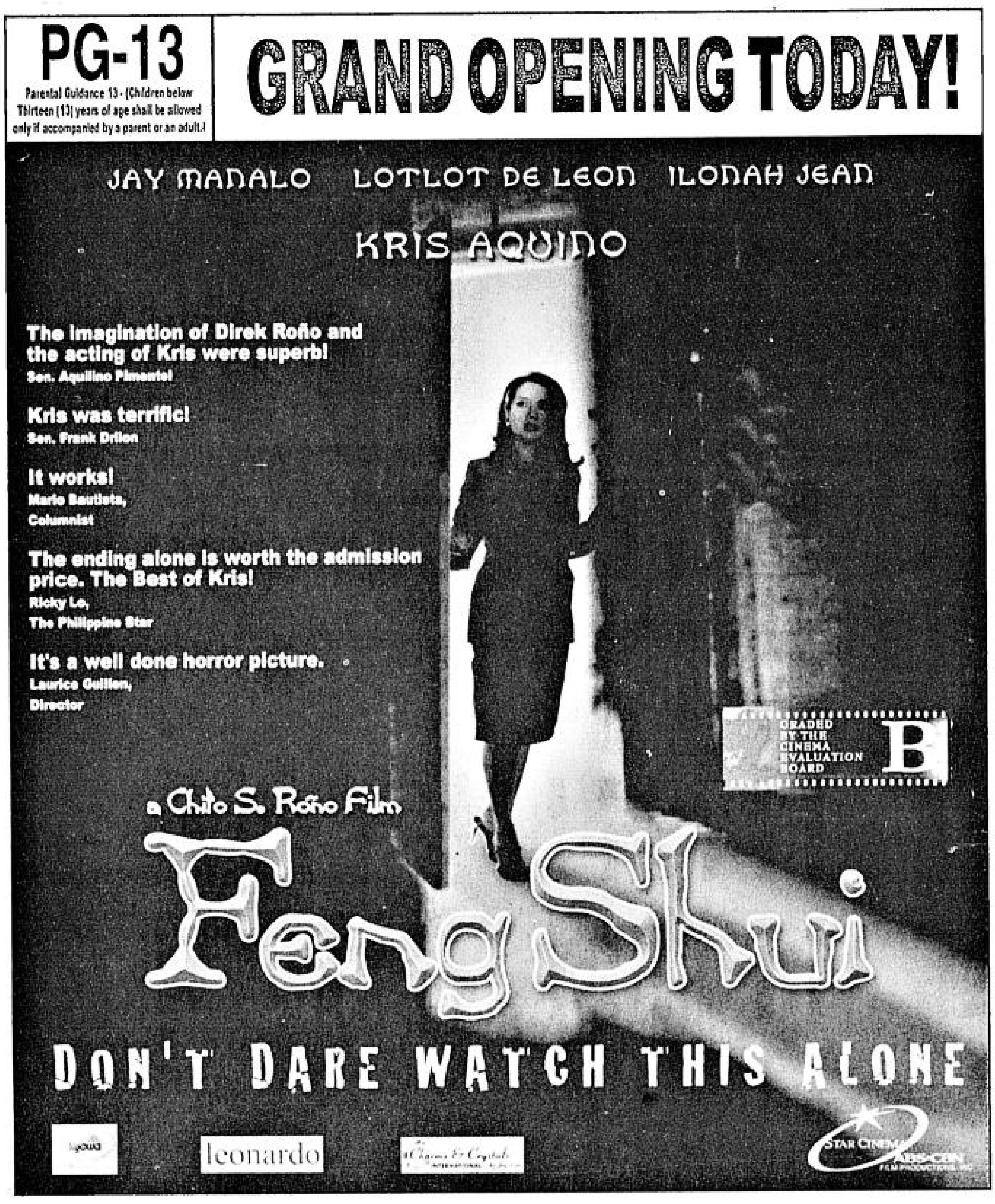
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

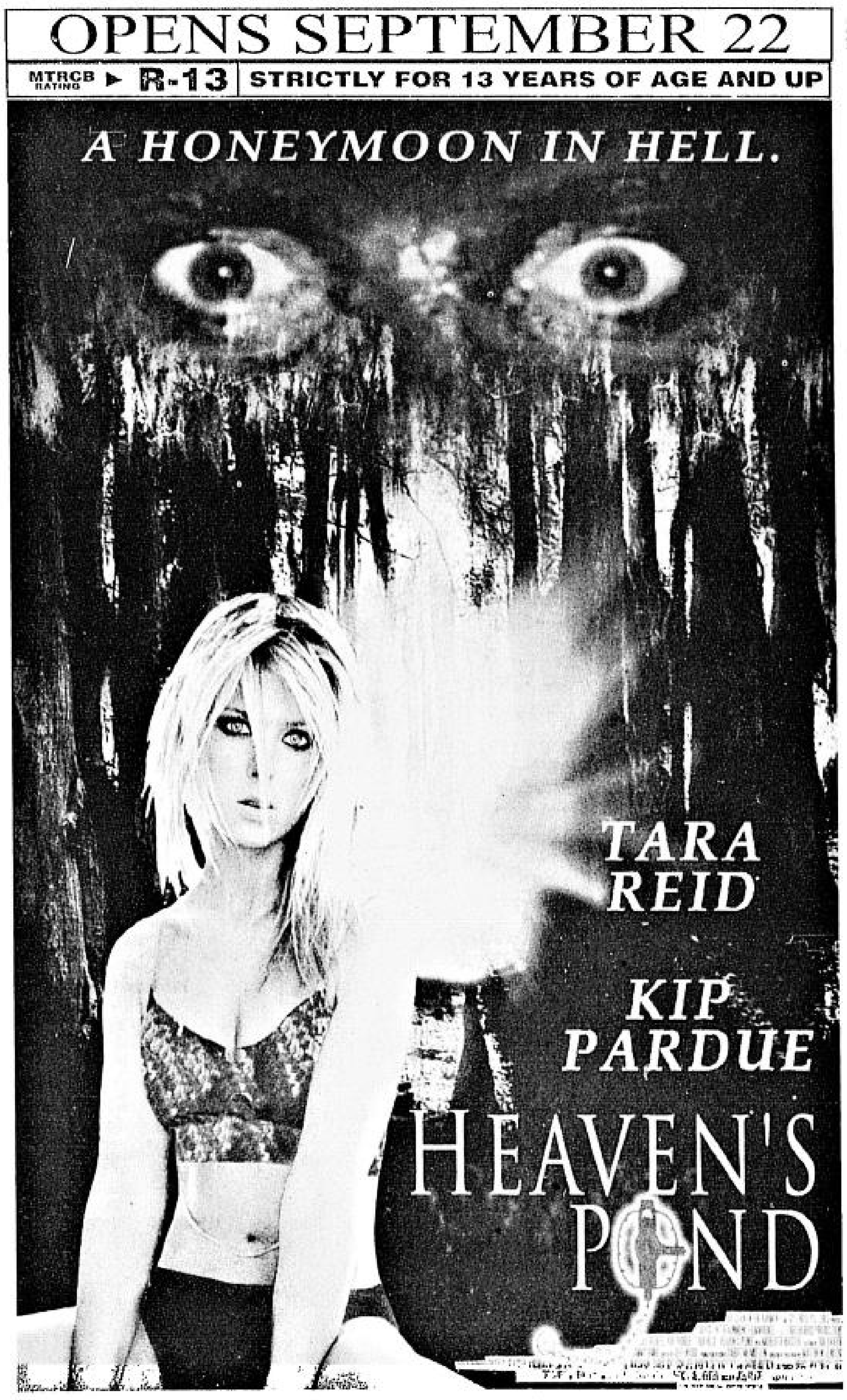
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

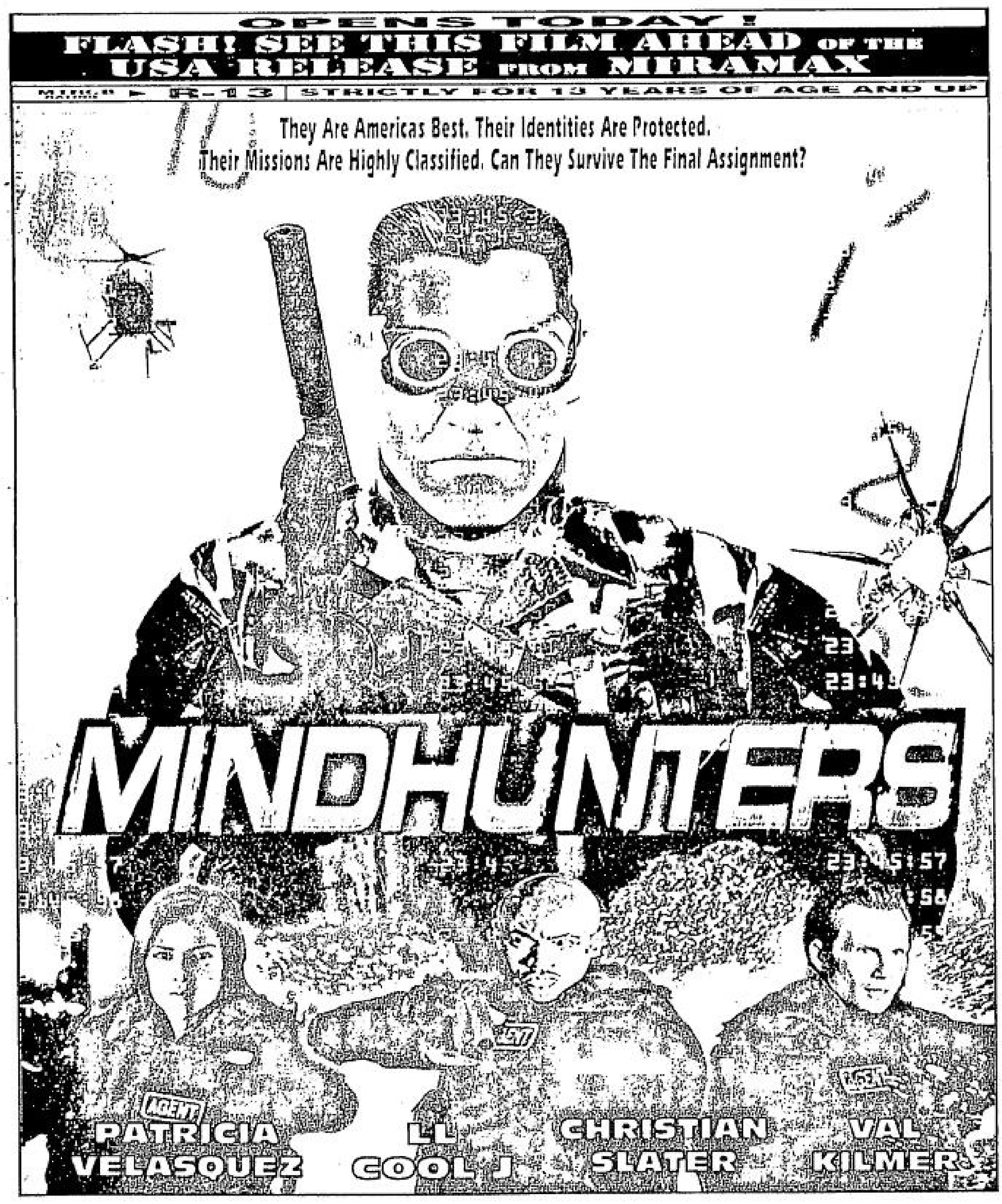
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

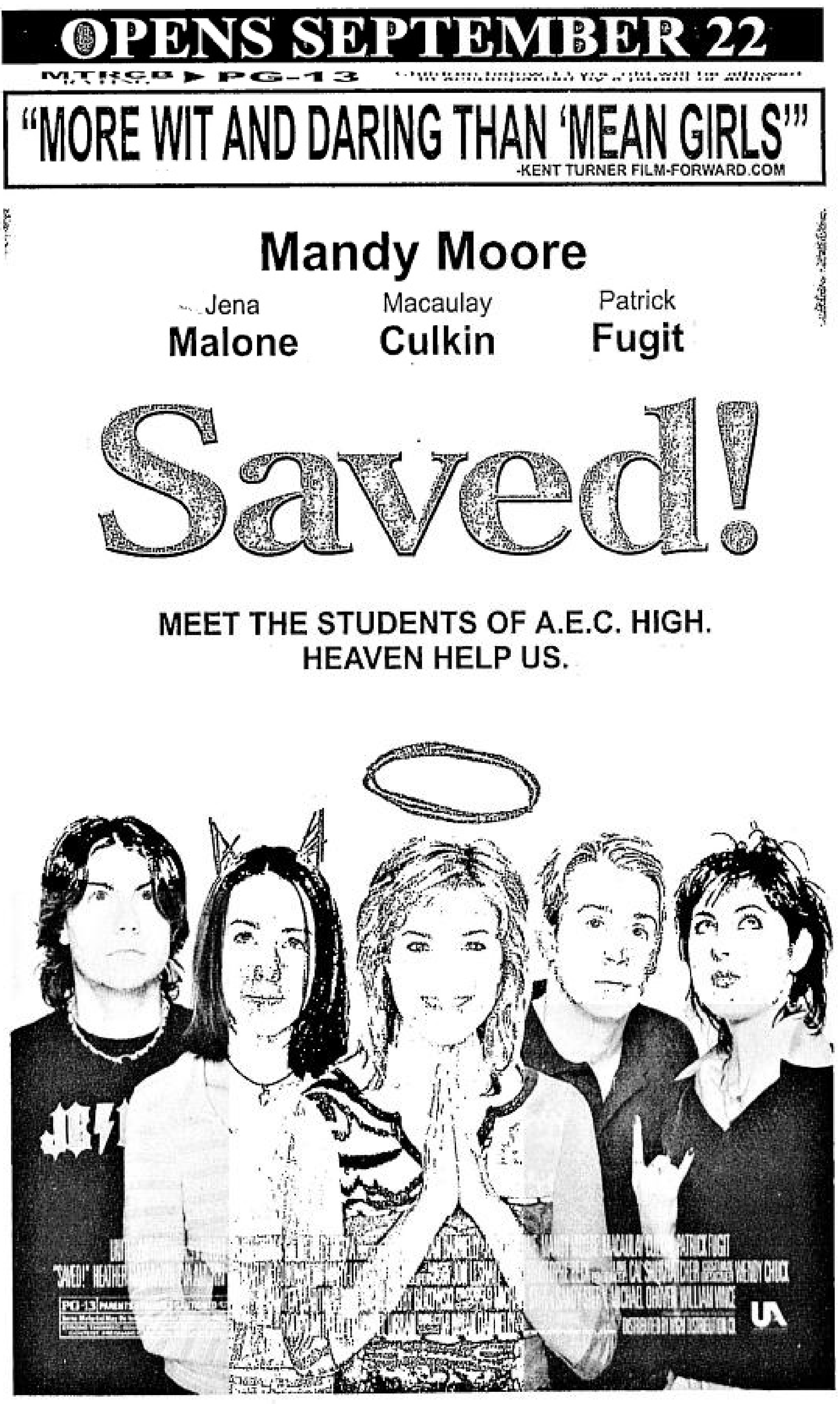
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

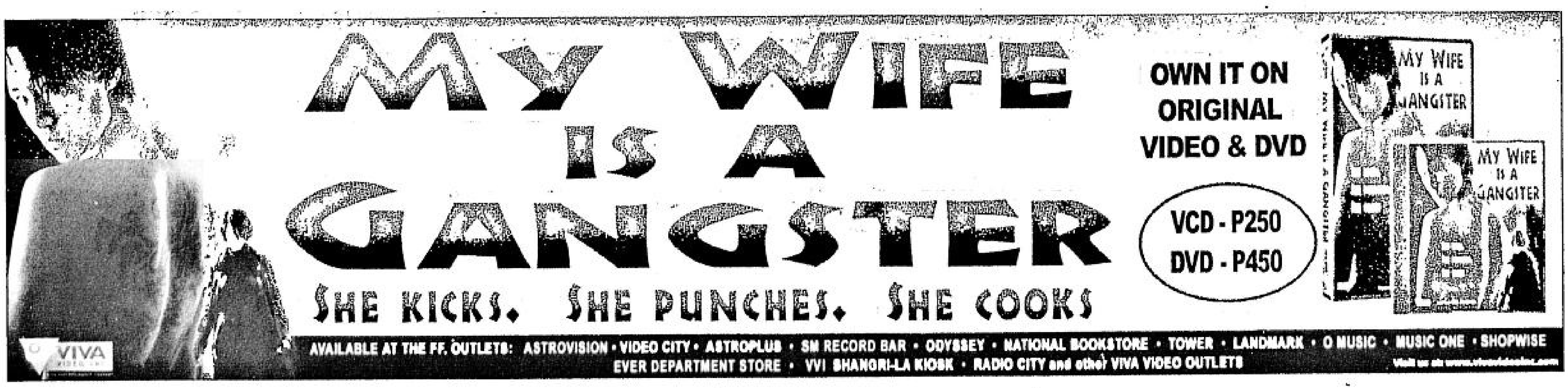
Show biz stories, Sections A2, A3
ENTERTAINMENT


PG-13
Parental Guidance 13 - (Children below Thirteen (13) years of age shall be allowed only if accompanied by a parent or an adult.)
GRAND OPENING TODAY!
JAY MANALO LOTLOT DE LEON ILONAH JEAN
KRIS AQUINO
The imagination of Direk Roño and the acting of Kris were superb!
Sen. Aquilino Pimentel
Kris was terrific!
Sen. Frank Drilon
It works!
Mario Bautista, Columnist
The ending alone is worth the admission price. The Best of Kris!
Ricky Lo, The Philippine Star
It's a well done horror picture.
Laurice Guillen, Director
GRADED BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD B
a Chito S. Roño Film
Feng Shui
DON'T DARE WATCH THIS ALONE
leonardo
Charms & Crystals
STAR CINEMA
ABS-CBN FILM PRODUCTIONS, INC.


OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
A HONEYMOON IN HELL.
TARA REID
KIP PARDUE
HEAVEN'S POND


OPENS TODAY!
FLASH! SEE THIS FILM AHEAD OF THE USA RELEASE FROM MIRAMAX
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
They Are Americas Best. Their Identities Are Protected.
Their Missions Are Highly Classified. Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
MINDHUNTERS
23:45:57
AGENT
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER


OPENS SEPTEMBER 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"
-KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM
Mandy Moore
Jena Malone
Macaulay Culkin
Patrick Fugit
Saved!
MEET THE STUDENTS OF A.E.C. HIGH.
HEAVEN HELP US.
UA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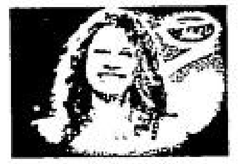
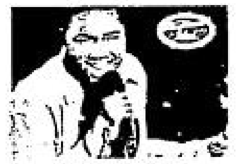
W idoljasmine


W prettycamille

W prettydiana

W fantasia


W georgesing

TONES

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
It's A Miracle	Barry Manilow	itsamiracle
Get On Your Feet	Gloria Estefan	getonurfeet
For Once In My Life	Spiral Staircase	foronce
All By Myself	Celine Dion	bymyself
Greatest Love Of All	Whitney Houston	greatestlove
I Can Love You Like That	All4One	icanlove
Lean On Me	Club Noveau	leanonme
Rhythm is Gonna Get You	Gloria Estefan	rhythm
One Last Cry	Brian McKnight	onelastcry
A Whole New World	Peabo Bryson & Celine Dion	newworld
My Girl	The Temptations	mygirl
Saving All My Love For You	Whitney Houston	savingmylove
Because You Loved Me	Celine Dion	ulovedme

ICONS

L jaslace

L jasminetnas

L camille

L gogeorge

L fantasiaeyes

L jpleyes

L dianaeyes

L johneyes

L jeneyes

L latoyaeyes

L amysing

L mattsmile

TEXT CARDS

TC alohajas

TC jasminename

TC fantasiaeyes

TC latoyalace

TC camilleface

TC jplface

TC dianasing

TC leanface

TC jenface

TC mattface

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Camille: For Once In My Life	IA216
Fantasia: Get On Your Feet	IA218
Fantasia: Greatest Love Of All	IA219
George: Lean On Me	IA221
John S: My Girl	IA223
La Toya: Rhythm Is Gonna Get You	IA224

TITLE	KEYWORD
All By Myself Audition	IA169
Harvard Grad 1	IA175
Harvard Grad 2	IA176
No no no!	IA178
Scat Girl	IA179
Staff Sgt Paul Hong	IA181

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Editor Louie C. Camino
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SM 'to modify' movie ban, says Bong

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE SM chain will now "modify its decision" and allow the screening of R-18 films but only if they are rated A or B by the Film Ratings Board, according to Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

"R-18 films need not be bold," Revilla, chair of the Senate committee on public information and mass media, said in a press statement. "They can be action, horror, artistically sexy. It is just a matter of improving on the plot and visual contents."

SM theaters earlier announced they would no longer show movies classified as R-18. Actors and actresses who appear in sexy movies and their producers protested the SM decision.

Revilla, who also protested the SM ban, last week initiated a discussion with SM vice president for operations Ric Camaligan, movie producers, directors and other leaders in the movie industry. Revilla suggested that R-18 films have to be rated A or B by the Film Ratings Board before they can be screened in theaters including those of the SM chain. Rated A and B films are considered high quality films in terms of plot and production, Revilla added.

But actress and Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation chair Boots Anson-Roa said the SM ban on R-18 films is a "business decision" that "everyone should respect."

"While it's true that there are R-18 films that are very good, this should pose as a challenge to writers, producers and the other people in the creative staff to be more deliberate in creating concepts for films," Anson-Roa told Inquirer Entertainment last Monday. "They should be more careful with their preproduction work.

"They have the right to impose the ban because it concerns their business. I found out from Ric (Camaligan) that the theaters are actually losing money because of fly-by-night producers whose films border on the pornographic."

Anson-Roa is also a member of the board of governors of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) and head of the cinema committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

"Besides, (SM owner) Henry Sy and his family are charismatic leaders," Anso-Roa added. "They even offer their trade halls for the use of Catholic charismatic groups.

She said Camaligan told her the R-18 ban is also applicable to foreign movies. "Meaning, there's no discrimination," the actress added. "This applies to all."

She said she agrees with actress-filmmaker Laurice Guillen when the latter said the SM ban would lead not to the death of the local movie industry but to the death of pornography in the country.

"It's sad that everybody outside SM rode on the issue," Anso-Roa said. "While some people think the ban could kill the movie industry, others believe that it would allow them to use films to promote positive values."

Revilla said he is confident that the positive result of last week's discussion would "cascade down to the entire industry for its immediate rehabilitation and improvement."

He said that while movie producers present during the discussion admitted that "there are really R-18 films that border on pornography," they maintained that these were merely created by "fly-by-night producers."

The producers said SM should specify what kind of films it would not show on its screens because "it is unjust for producers who make quality movies to be included in the sweeping ban."

Present in the meeting were producers Lily Monteverde of Regal Films, Vic del Rosario of Viva Films, Wilson Tieng and Tess Fuentes, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Marissa Laguardia, MTRCB board member Joey Romero, Film Development Council Chair Laurice Guillen and Esperidion Laxa of the Optical Media Board.

Anson-Roa: SM has the right to impose the ban because it concerns their business

REVILLA. R-18 films need not be bold.

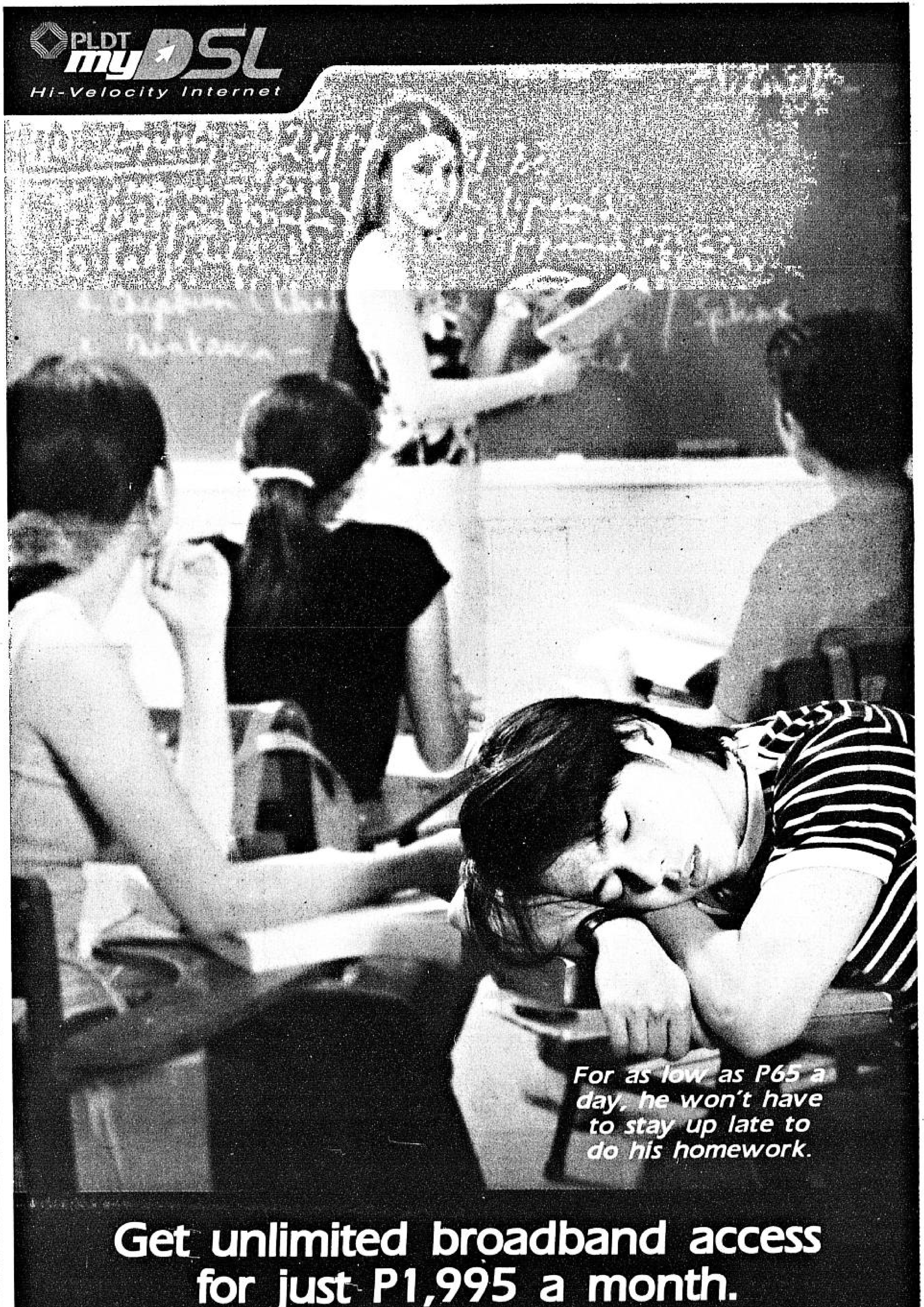
PhilHealth also covers show biz /A2-4

RESSA

Maria Ressa, witness to history /A3-1

BEN STILLER in "Dodgeball"

Mindless, vulgar and funny /A3-4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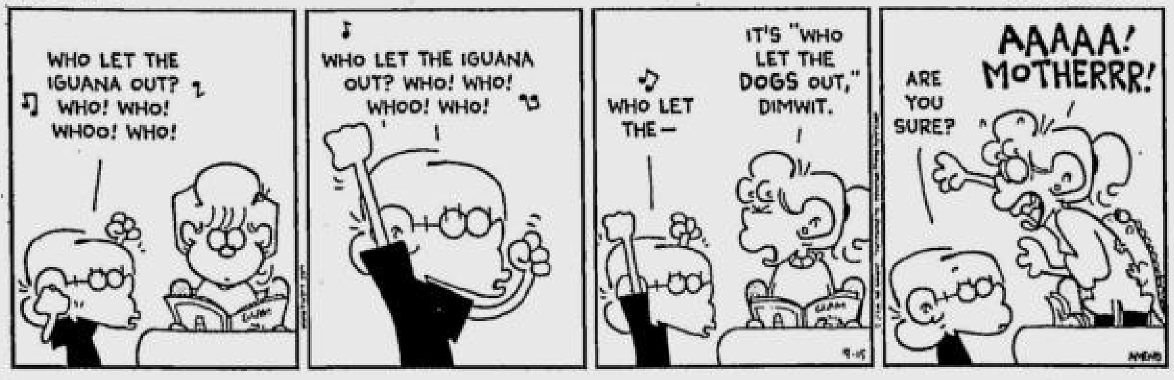
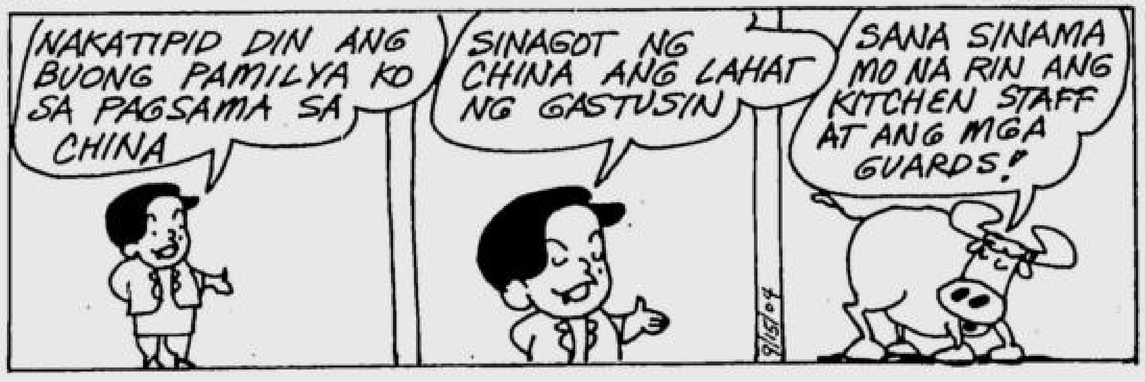
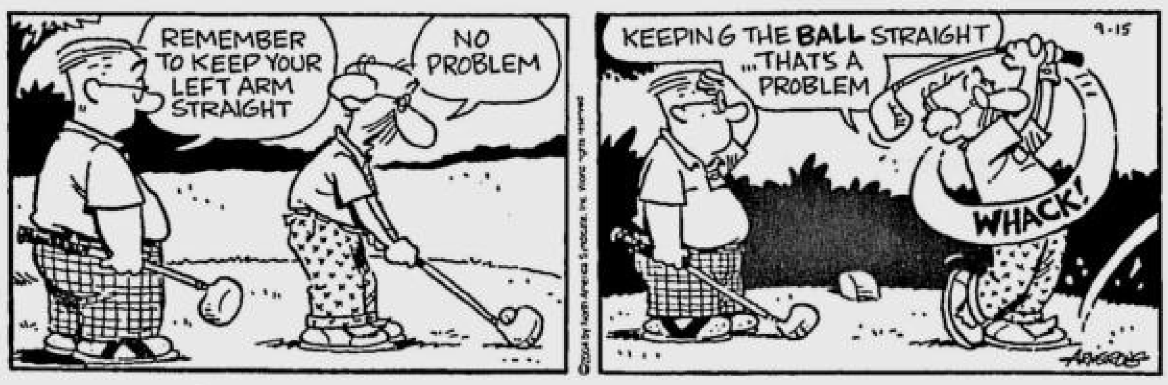
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHO LET THE IGUANA OUT? WHO! WHO! WHOo! WHO!
WHO LET THE IGUANA OUT? WHO! WHO! WHOO! WHO!
WHO LET THE—
IT'S "WHO LET THE DOGS OUT," DIMWIT.
ARE YOU SURE?
AAAAA! MOTHERRR!
9-15

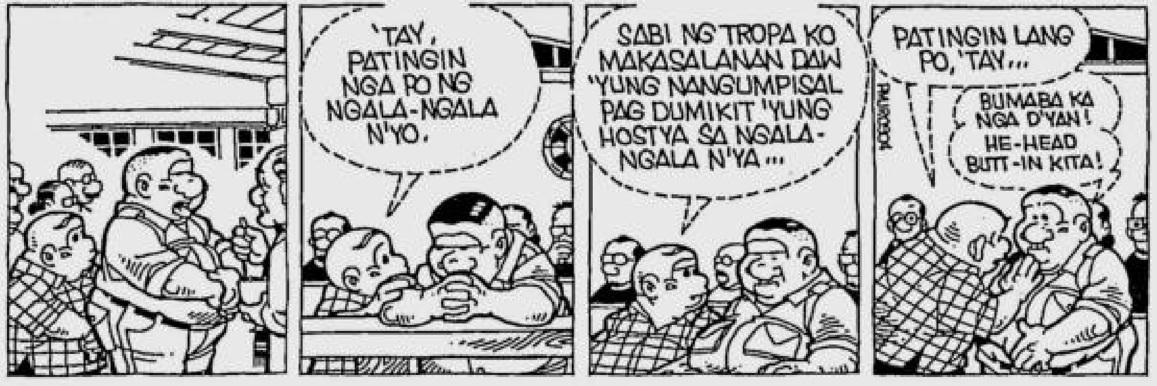
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NAKATIPID DIN ANG BUONG PAMILYA KO SA PAGSAMA SA CHINA
SINAGOT NG CHINA ANG LAHAT NG GASTUSIN
SANA SINAMA MO NA RIN ANG KITCHEN STAFF AT ANG MGA GUARDS!
9/15/04

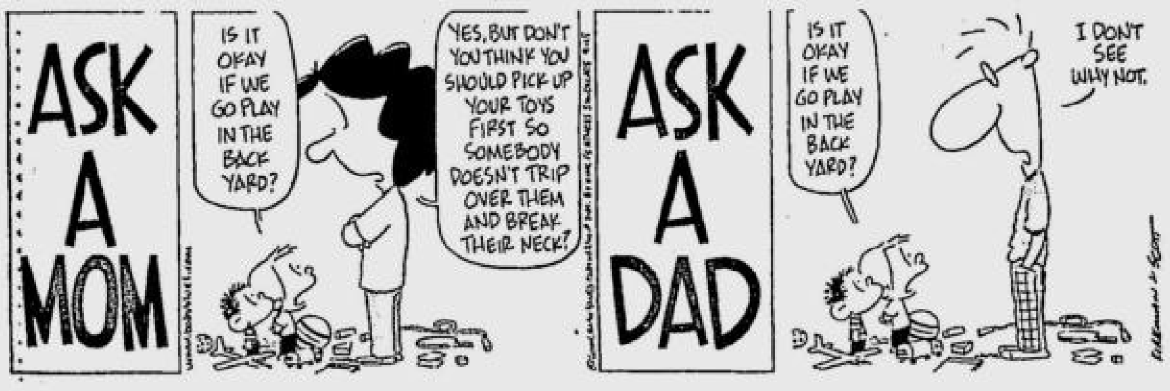
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR LEFT ARM STRAIGHT
NO PROBLEM
KEEPING THE BALL STRAIGHT ...THAT'S A PROBLEM
WHACK!
9-15

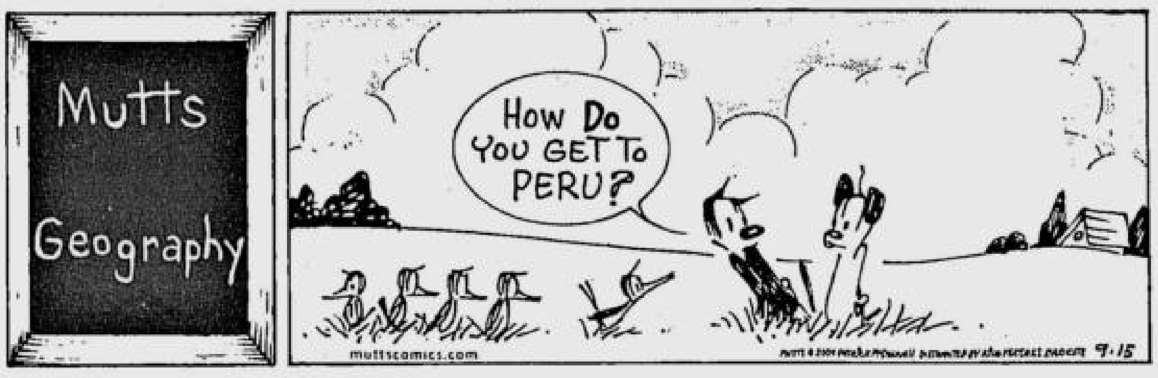
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY, PATINGIN NGA PO NG NGALA-NGALA N'YO.
SABI NG TROPA KO MAKASALANAN DAW 'YUNG NANGUMPISAL PAG DUMIKIT 'YUNG HOSTYA SA NGALA-NGALA N'YA...
PATINGIN LANG PO, 'TAY...
BUMABA KA NGA D'YAN! HE-HEAD BUTT-IN KITA!

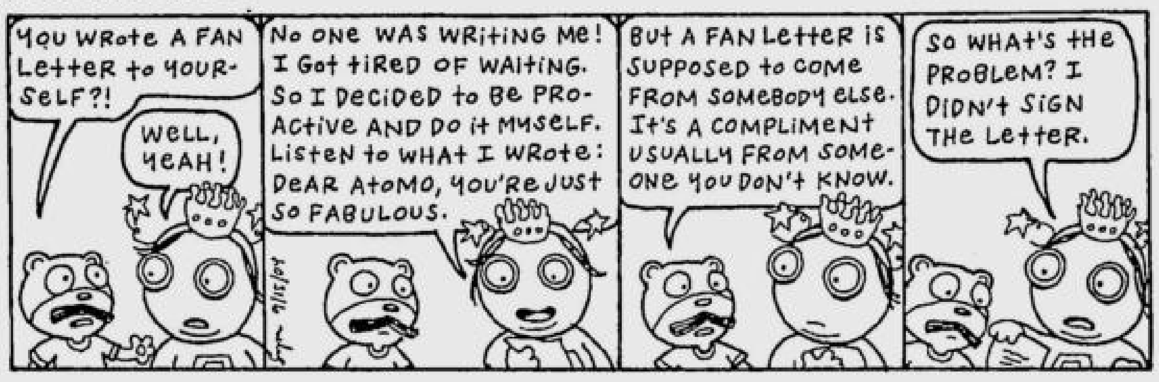
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A MOM
IS IT OKAY IF WE GO PLAY IN THE BACK YARD?
YES, BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD PICK UP YOUR TOYS FIRST SO SOMEBODY DOESN'T TRIP OVER THEM AND BREAK THEIR NECK?
ASK A DAD
IS IT OKAY IF WE GO PLAY IN THE BACK YARD?
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

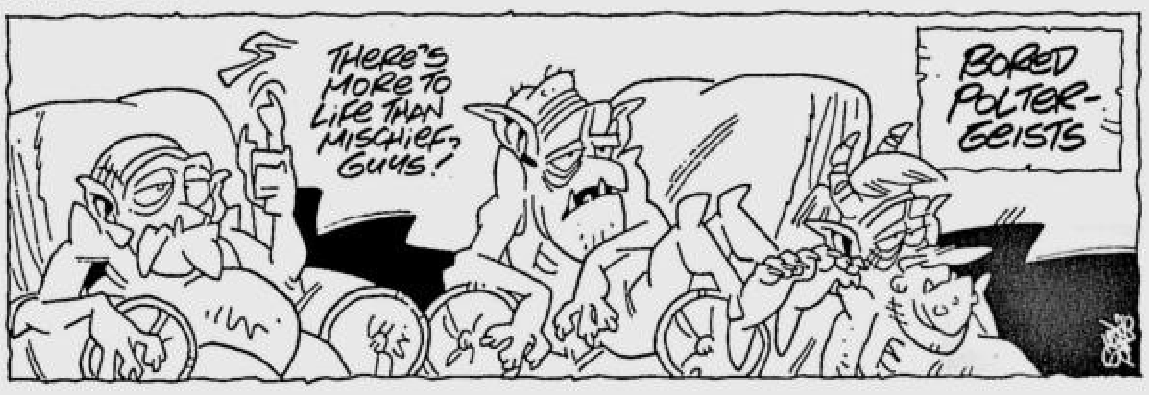
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Mutts Geography
How Do You GET To PERU?
muttscomics.com
9-15

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You wrote A FAN Letter to yourself?!
WeLL, yeAH!
No one WAS WRiting Me! I Got tiReD OF WAiting. So I DeciDeD to Be PRO-Active AND Do it MySeLF. Listen to WHAt I WRote: DeAR AtoMO, You're Just So FABULOUS.
But A FAN Letter is Supposed to come FROM SomeBody else. It's A COMPLIMENT USUALLY FROM SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW.
So WHAt's the PROBLEM? I DIDN'T SIGN THe Letter.
9/15/04

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


There's more to life than mischief, guys!
BORED POLTERGEISTS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You generally find a particular area that interests you, then you explore it intensely. However, you also want to earn money doing so. You often wait until you master a certain technique, and your patience always pays off. You're very guarded about your private life. This year you have an important decision to make. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Prince Harry, British royal; Oliver Stone, director; Tommy Lee Jones. actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're definitely ready to work hard today. You're eager, keen and determined to accomplish something. With this kind of motivation, you can't fail!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): What a flirtatious, fun-loving day! You feel saucy, playful and bold. This is a great day for playful activities with children, dabbling in the arts or enjoying a movie.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Tackle projects at home that you've been avoiding for a while. Roll up your sleeves and dig in. Do repairs, decorating projects and cleaning.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You could sell ice to the Eskimos today. You're persuasive and convincing; you definitely have a way with words. Who can refuse you? (No one!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have bold, dynamite ideas about how to make money today. You're very powerful at work in everything you do. If you're shopping, you're also very much in command of the scene.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're gangbusters today. You're unusually dynamic, energetic and powerful. Try to do something physical to burn off some of this energy. You're certainly the boss today!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be doing something secretive today. You're definitely not telling everybody what you're up to. This isn't being sneaky; it's being private. (There's a difference.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're good at leading people today. Others will readily listen to you. You have the energy and charisma to make people follow your lead. (But avoid conflicts.)

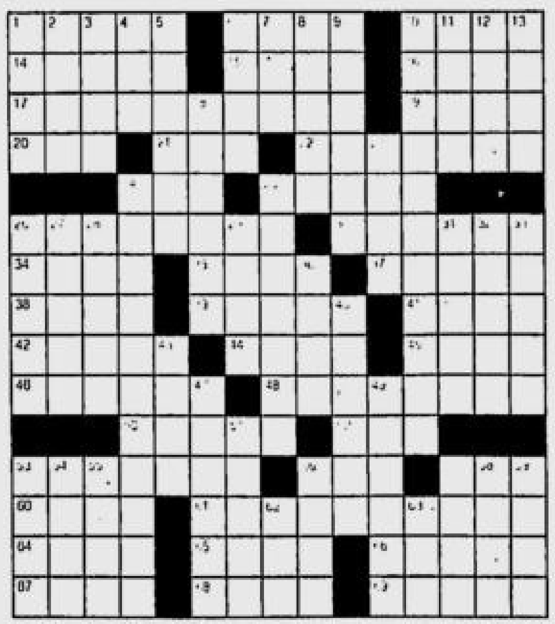
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your ambition is aroused today. You're going to go for the brass ring. Nothing can hold you back. (Caution: Your boss might be threatened by your aggression.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You want to do something different today, something out of the ordinary! You want excitement and adventure. You also want the stimulation of learning something new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel passionate about practically everything today. You want to improve yourself in some way in order to become a better person. Because of this, you're ready to turn over a new leaf.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Partners and close friends are confident, aggressive and rather overbearing today. To avoid further tension, either avoid pushy people or just agree to disagree.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

9/15/04

ACROSS
1 Manhattan Project project
6 Glenn of the Eagles
10 For both sexes
14 Liquefy
15 "Damn Yankees" siren
16 Up to the task
17 Sitcom group
19 Explorer Zebulon
20 L. Michaels' show
21 Sphere
22 Stood by
24 Wildebeest
25 Standing tall
26 Meditating moodily
30 Lifted
34 Rivulet
35 Western lily
37 Snail trail
38 Eager
39 Miscue
41 Mongolian desert
42 Rescues
44 Nap
45 One Baldwin
46 Personal points of view
48 Summer drink
50 Monopoly piece
52 Mo. for Leos
53 Pitcher
56 Banned insecticide
57 Dribble catcher
60 Time period
61 Golf course group
64 Parroted
65 Finish out of the money
66 Land of the pharaohs
67 Broad
68 Urban blight
69 Keyed up

DOWN
1 NYPD alerts
2 Bask too much
3 Spoken
4 Part of MD
5 Surpassing
6 Muff
7 Actor Ely
8 Dana of "Baretta"
9 God of the Hebrews
10 Political roundtable group
11 Final notice, briefly
12 Actress Sommer
13 Act
18 Injury showing discoloration
23 Crack shots
24 Mongolian group
25 Chinese appetizer
26 Word with band or ring
27 Adversary
28 1964 A.L. Rookie of the Year
29 Geek
31 Larger and deeper fiddle
32 Fix securely
33 Clear frost
36 Seepage
40 Created anew
43 Pack compactly
47 Commits theft
49 Beginning
51 Actor Flynn
53 Return to liquid
54 Pueblo people
55 Felt regret
56 Carpe __!
57 __ Mawr College
58 Little devils
59 Eight bits
62 Sch. in Tahlequah, OK
63 Time period

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	N	S	■	B	A	S	K	■	L	A	P	E	L
A	R	E	A	■	A	N	T	I	■	E	R	A	T	O
S	E	W	N	■	D	E	A	D	■	S	M	I	T	S
H	O	T	D	O	G	A	N	D	A	S	O	D	A	■
■	■	■	I	C	E	R	■	■	N	E	R	■	■	■
A	S	S	E	T	S	■	M	A	I	N	S	T	A	Y
W	H	I	G	■	■	P	O	S	S	E	■	R	I	A
A	U	T	O	G	R	A	P	H	E	D	B	A	L	L
R	T	E	■	A	I	L	E	Y	■	■	A	L	E	E
D	E	S	E	R	V	E	S	■	S	A	L	A	D	S
■	■	■	L	I	E	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	■	■
■	R	O	A	S	T	E	D	P	E	A	N	U	T	S
H	E	A	T	H	■	L	O	A	D	■	C	R	O	P
I	N	T	E	L	■	M	U	T	E	■	E	D	N	A
M	E	S	S	Y	■	S	P	E	C	■	S	U	E	S

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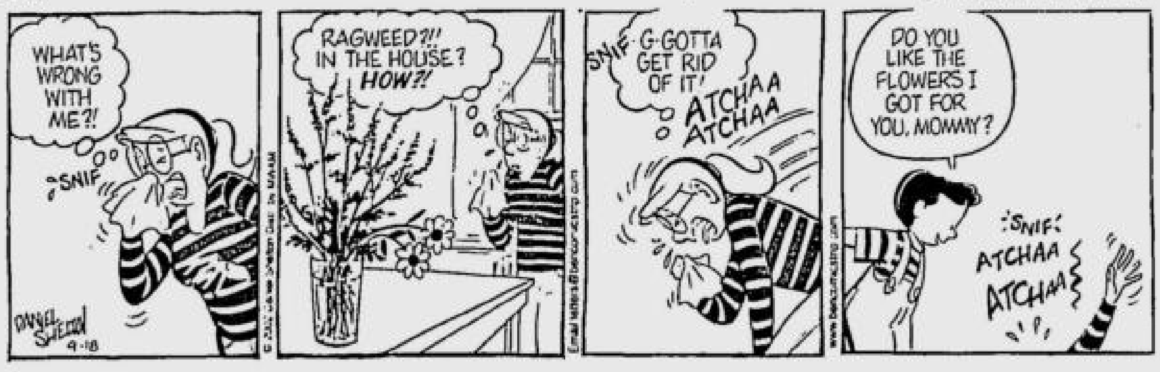
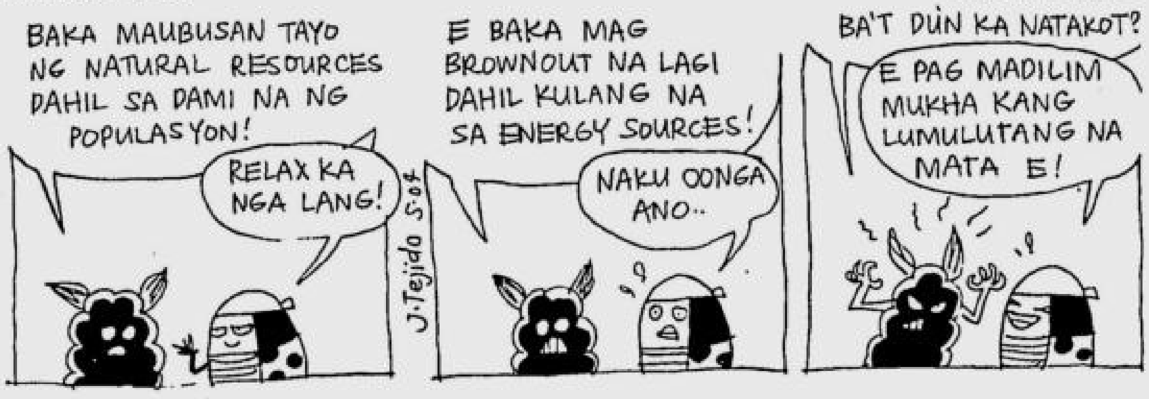
9/15/04

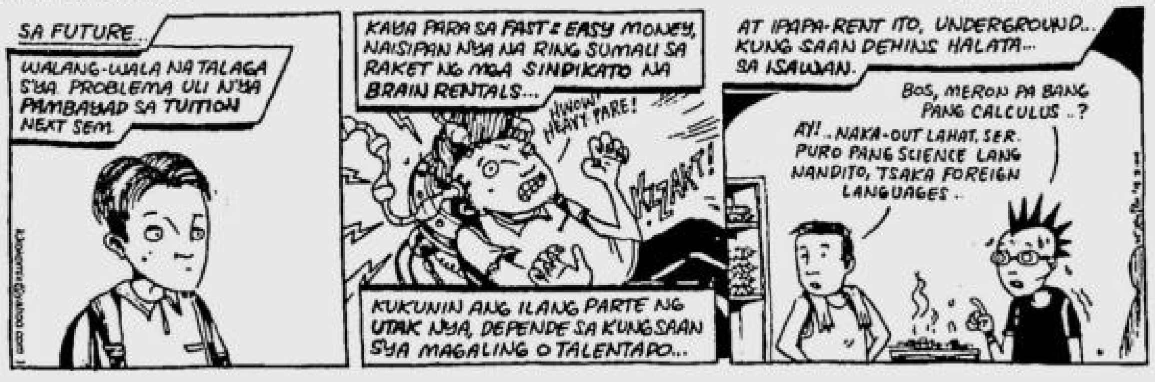
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!
SNIF
RAGWEED?!! IN THE HOUSE? HOW?!
SNIF G-GOTTA GET RID OF IT!
ATCHAA ATCHAA
DO YOU LIKE THE FLOWERS I GOT FOR YOU, MOMMY?
SNIF ATCHAA ATCHAA
DANIEL SHELTON 9-18

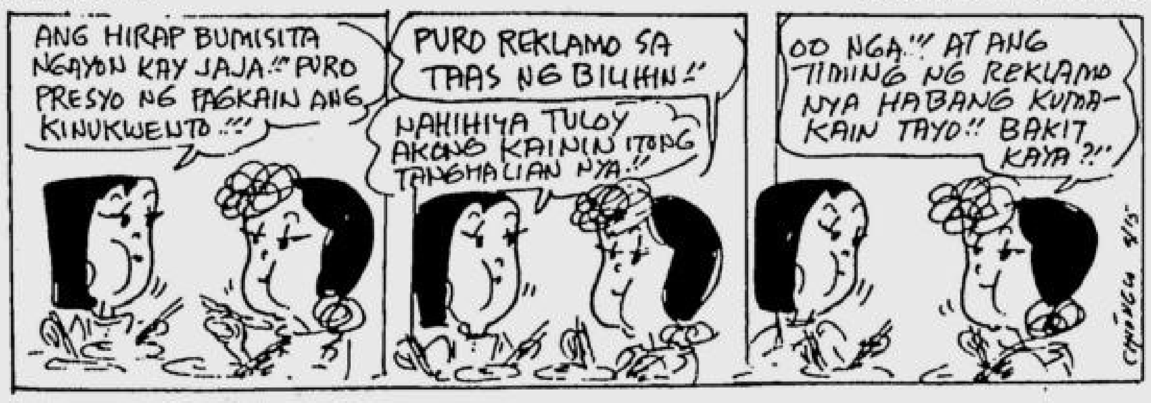
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAKA MAUBUSAN TAYO NG NATURAL RESOURCES DAHIL SA DAMI NA NG POPULASYON!
RELAX KA NGA LANG!
E BAKA MAG BROWNOUT NA LAGI DAHIL KULANG NA SA ENERGY SOURCES!
NAKU OONGA ANO..
BA'T DUN KA NATAKOT?
E PAG MADILIM MUKHA KANG LUMULUTANG NA MATA E!
J.Tejido

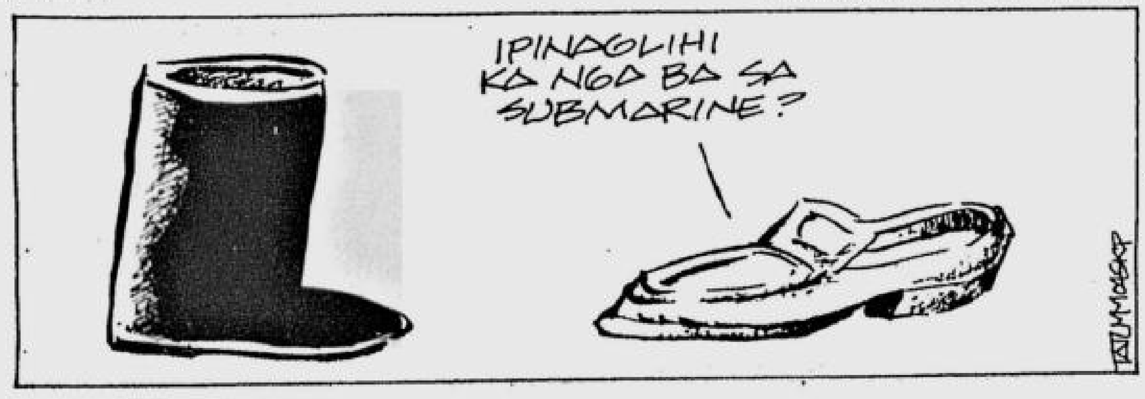
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SA FUTURE...
WALANG-WALA NA TALAGA S'YA. PROBLEMA ULI N'YA PAMBAYAD SA TUITION NEXT SEM.
KAYA PARA SA FAST & EASY MONEY, NAISIPAN NYA NA RING SUMALI SA RAKET NG MGA SINDIKATO NA BRAIN RENTALS...
WHOW! HEAVY PARE!
KUKUNIN ANG ILANG PARTE NG UTAK NYA, DEPENDE SA KUNG SAAN SYA MAGALING O TALENTADO...
AT IPAPA-RENT ITO, UNDERGROUND... KUNG SAAN DEHINS HALATA... SA ISAWAN.
BOS, MERON PA BANG PANG CALCULUS ..?
AY! .. NAKA-OUT LAHAT, SER. PURO PANG SCIENCE LANG NANDITO, TSAKA FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG HIRAP BUMISITA NGAYON KAY JAJA!" PURO PRESYO NG PAGKAIN ANG KINUKWENTO!!"
PURO REKLAMO SA TAAS NG BILIHIN!"
NAHIHIYA TULOY AKONG KAININ ITONG TANGHALIAN NYA!!"
OO NGA!" AT ANG TIMING NG REKLAMO NYA HABANG KUMAKAIN TAYO!! BAKIT KAYA?!"
CHIONGLO 9/15

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


IPINAGLIHI KA NGA BA SA SUBMARINE?

Tenseful life, tough road to hoe and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What do you do to relax?

GUEST: I like to be comfortable because of my tenseful life.

(Wow, *nakaka*-tense *ka talaga*.)

* * *

Host: What do you think of our guest chef's culinary creation?

Guest: It looks so beautiful. I'm sure it tastes just like fine!

(OK, fine.)

* * *

Host: Will you accept the award for your friend?

Guest: I will accept the award in the behalf of my best friend!

(*Ay*, in the behalf!)

* * *

Host: Will you apologize for what you did last week?

Guest: Why should I? *Hindi naman* international *yung aking ginawa*!

(One man's intentional is another man's international.)

* * *

Host: How many movies are being produced this year by the local film industry?

Guest: I don't know the exact figure, but it's very less much!

(*Baliktad yata*...)

* * *

Host: Are you excited about your new movie?

Guest: Yes, I hope it will be my ticket to the stardom way!

(Wow, the stardom way!)

* * *

Host: When do you expect the next increase in gasoline prices?

Guest: Maybe by the third place of the month.

(Uh, when?!)

* * *

Host: Do you think the country can survive its current economic crisis?

Guest: I think so, but it will be a rough road to hoe.

(Don't hoe the road—please!)

* * *

Quizmaster: In which continent is the country of Sweden?

Contestant: North America!

(No, Europe)

* * *

Quizmaster: Mt. McKinley is in what US state? The answer starts with the letter A.

Contestant: Africa!

(No, Alaska!)

Feedback

CONCLUSION of **Rey K. Lirios'** letter: "Since TV executives don't do anything about viewers' complaints, we are compelled to demand that program sponsors themselves act more responsibly for the public welfare. We intend to petition them to be more discriminating in selecting the programs that air their commercials.

"If government levies a text tax on TV show biz *tsismis* text surveys and noontime variety text contests, the revenue collected can fund more informative documentary programs.

"Despite the need for more educational shows, government TV itself fails dismally in upholding public service programming.

"TV's responsibility to the public under RA No. 9250 (Sec. 4) supposedly guarantees to provide adequate public service time, to enable government to reach the population on important public issues; provide sound and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise. However, every provision has been violated. So, we viewers must now act to uphold our rights."

'Scooby-Doo 2' on video

THE WORLD'S favorite canine crimefighter and his teen friends return as heroes in their second movie, "Scooby-Doo 2," which is now on Warner Home Video.

The film is available on VCD and DVD, and the video includes additional scenes with director's commentary. It will also give viewers an inside look at its stunts and visual effects, plus some music videos. And the DVD copy unravels the mystery behind Shaggy's missing pants!

'Tango!'

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Foundation opens the MCO Arts Festival Season II with "Tango!" a concert featuring the works of **Astor Piazzolla**, at 6 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower I, Makati Avenue.

Duo-pianists **Della Gamboa Besa** and **Anamaria Gregorio de Guzman** team up with guitarists **Butch Roxas** and **Ruben Reyes**, and violinist **Gina Medina**.

Included in the evening's program are "Tango Suite" (two guitars), "Histoire de Tango" (guitar and violin), and "Le Grand Tango," "Adios Nonino," and "Libertango" as arranged for two pianos. Call 878-4358 and 59.

"SPEAK LOW" features (from left) Dia, SaporSantos, Perez, Ferrer.

UST Music faculty concert

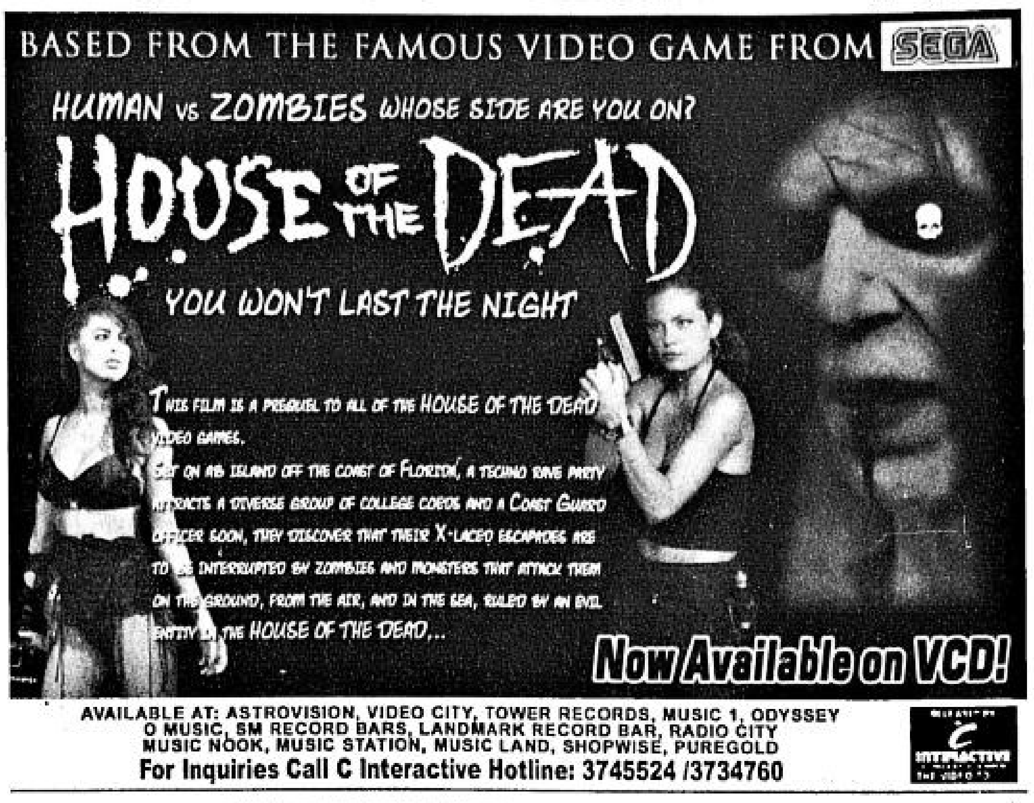
THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music will showcase the musical prowess of its faculty members in the concert "Speak Low" tonight, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences Main Gallery.

"Speak Low," a comic-musical presentation, will be staged by UST Conservatory faculty members Thea Perez (soprano) and Ronan Ferrer (tenor). Joining them are guest-artists from the University of the Philippines (UP) Conservatory of Music Katrina Sapor-Santos (soprano) and Benjamin Dia Jr. (pianist).

Their repertoire will include pieces from Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," Strauss' "Die Fledermaus," and Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi," as well as songs by Leonard Bernstein and Arnold Shoenberg.

Originally scheduled on Aug. 26, the second of a series of faculty concerts sponsored by the UST Conservatory of Music was reset due to the bad weather.

The series of faculty concerts will run until March 2005. All concerts are open to the public. For further details, call the UST Conservatory of Music Dean's Office, 406-1611 local 8246, or 731-4022.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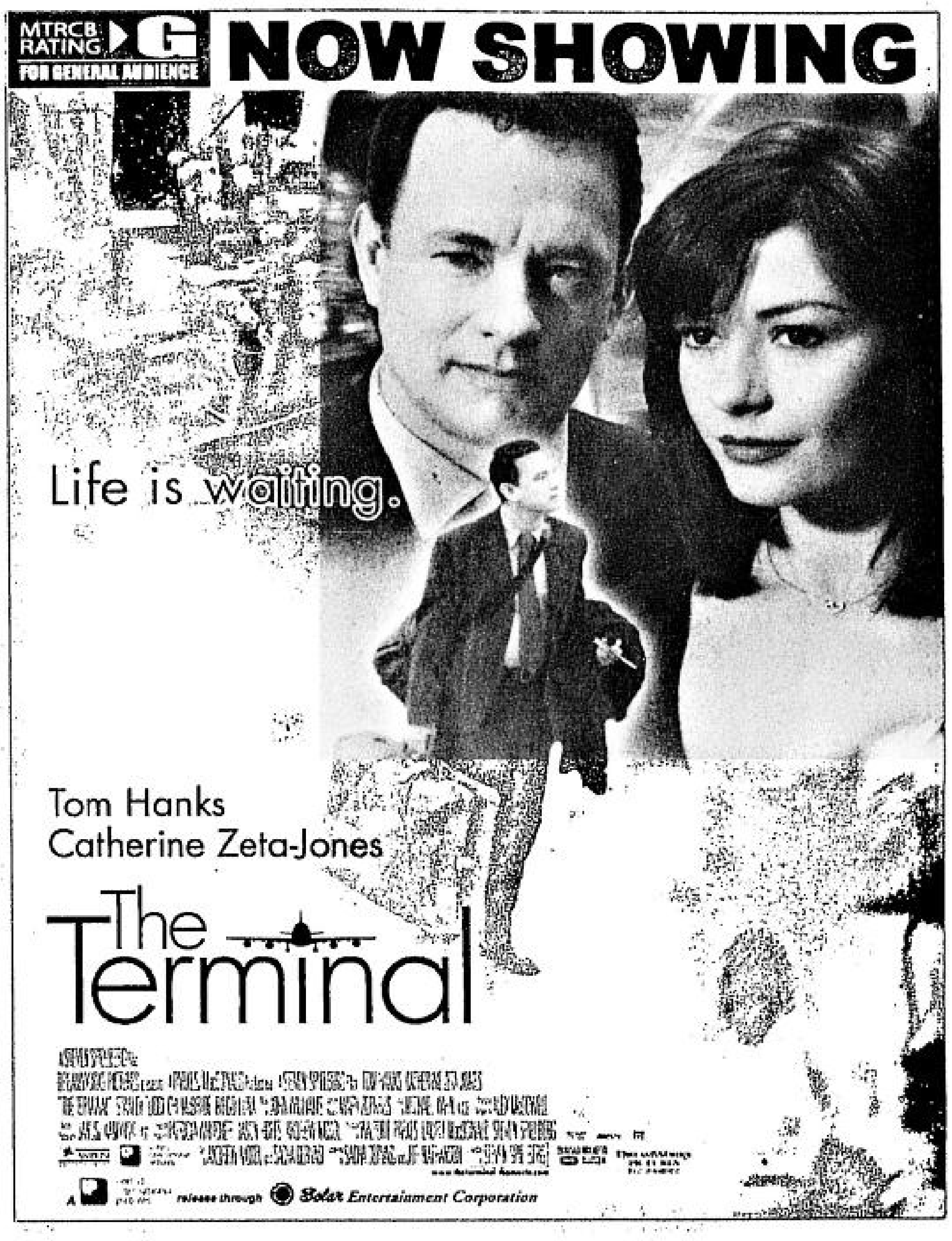
C INTERACTIVE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GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX
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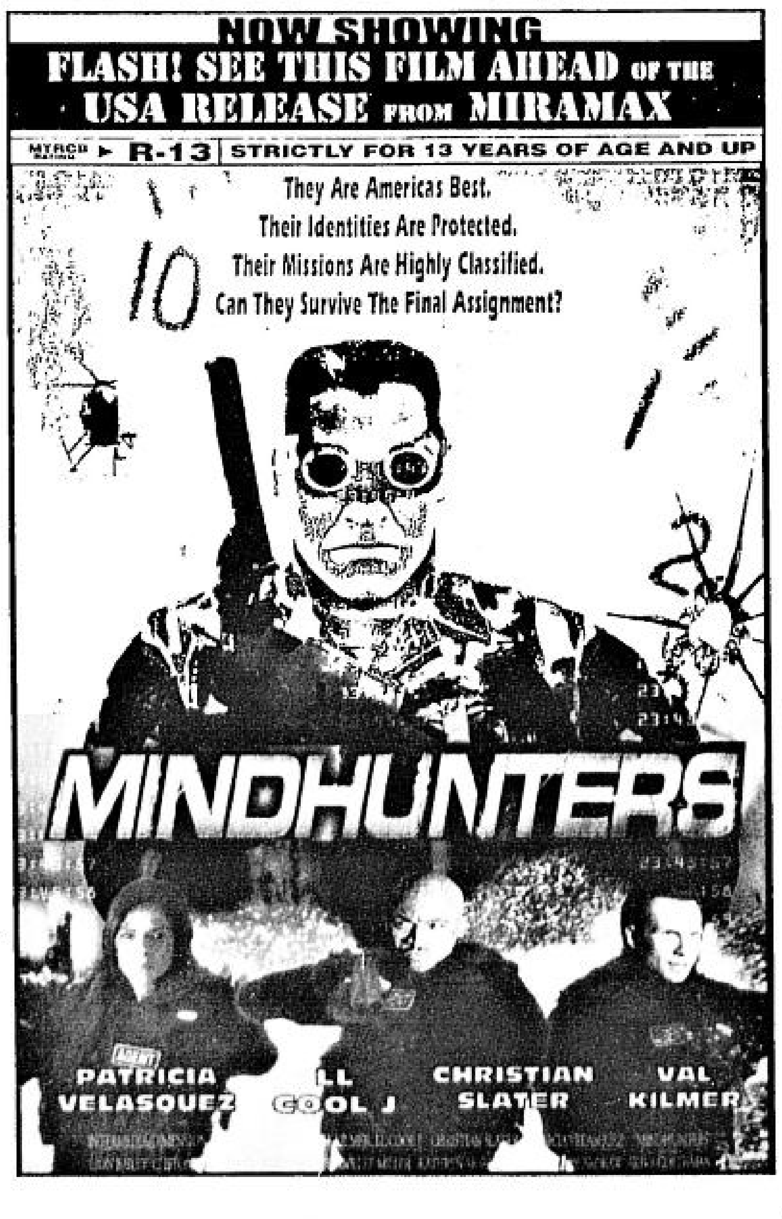
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Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
10
MINDHUNTERS
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER

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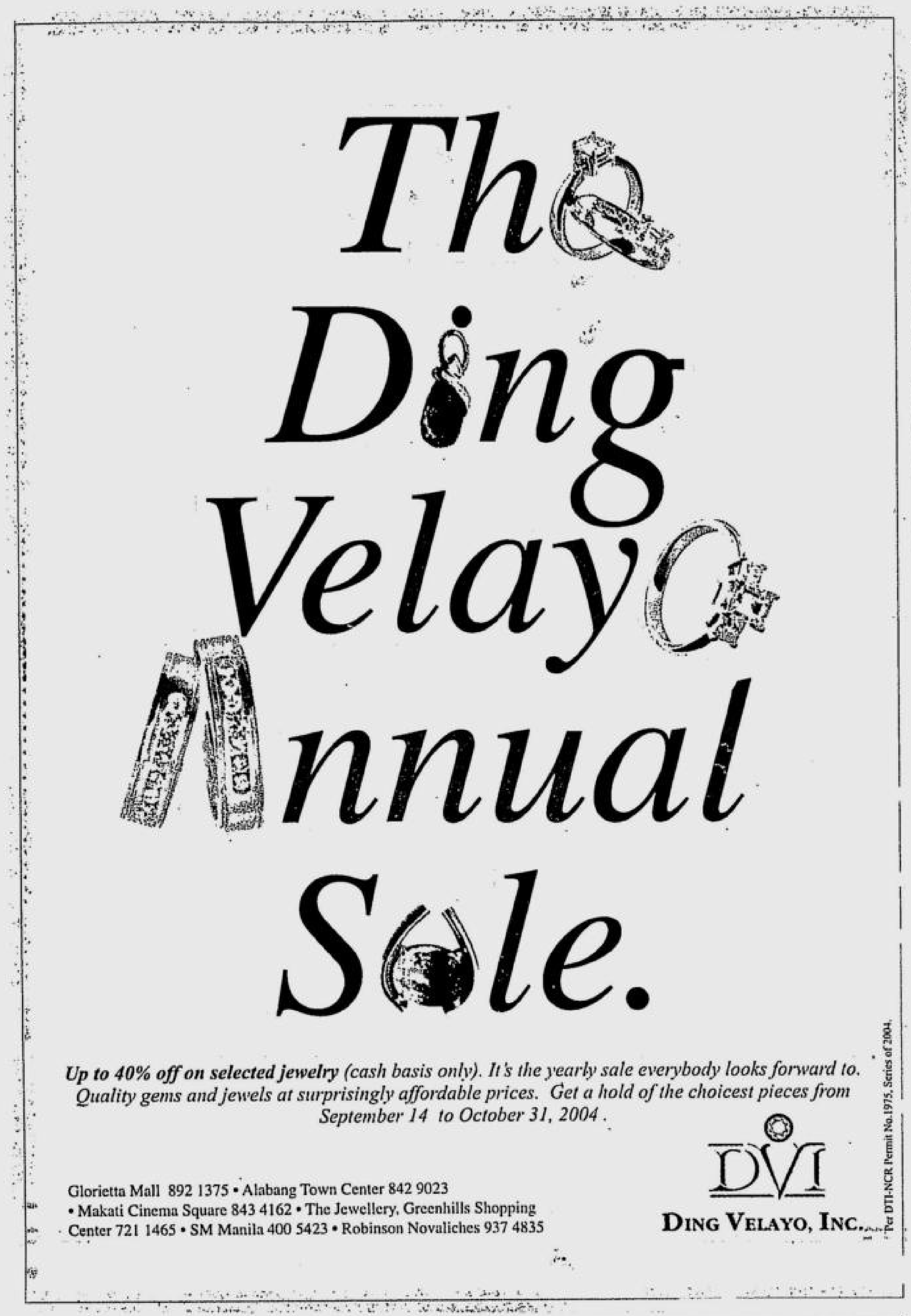
ENTERTAINMENT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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1975, Series of 2004.

PhilHealth also covers show biz

ACTORS, actresses, directors and scriptwriters are now covered by the government's National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), which is administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

This was disclosed by Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, PhilHealth president and chief executive officer, who said the actors, actresses, directors, scriptwriters and other workers in the entertainment industry are covered as individually paying and self-employed members of PhilHealth.

Duque said PhilHealth now covers a record of 64 million Filipinos all over the country, 30 million of whom belong to the poor sector.

PhilHealth released to members a record P10.9 billion in benefit claims in 2003 alone, compared to a low of P7 billion in 2001 when he took over as PhilHealth chief.

"Entertainment industry people who do not fall within the definition of the term 'employee' under the new rules and regulations of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (RA No. 7875) as amended can apply as individually paying and self-employed members of PhilHealth so they will be covered by the NHIP," said Duque.

Other self-employed individuals are also covered by PhilHealth, he said. They include professionals, partners and single proprietors of businesses, professional athletes, coaches, trainers and jockeys and other sports personalities, he said.

Even news correspondents and contributors who are not considered full-time employees of newspapers, radio or television stations, cable television stations, magazines, news agencies and other media establishments can also have coverage if they apply for membership, he said.

In keeping with the mandate of RA No. 7875 that the government's health insurance program shall be universal and shall cover all Filipinos, individual farmers and fisherfolk and their dependents may also join the PhilHealth so they can avail themselves of its nationwide medical network and hospital and medical professional services.

PhilHealth is also mandated to cover indigents whose membership dues or premiums are being sponsored by government agencies like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and local government officials like governors and city and municipal mayors, said Duque.

> They are classified as individually paying and self-employed members

Those who want to enroll as PhilHealth members to have NHIP coverage should file their individual applications with any PhilHealth offices all over the country.

Applicants should submit documents like their birth certificate, baptismal certificate, identification cards from the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System, passport or any other valid ID or document acceptable to PhilHealth.

DEE'S GUESTS: (From front to back) Mary Ann Colayco, Lex Ledesma and Francis Colayco

CIE lessons on 'Dee's Day'

WATCH Carlo B. Maglinao, senior consultant of Magnus Philippines Inc. and a Center for International Education Academy for Leadership (CIE) graduate in project management; Andrew Masigan owner of Dimsum and Dumplings; Francisco J. Colayco, CIE academy chair; Mary Ann B. Colayco, CIE treasurer; and Lex Ledesma, CIE managing director, on "Dee's Day," on RPN 9 tomorrow, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m., with replay at 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., Friday.

These seasoned entrepreneurs will talk about how to start a business, how to differentiate your business from the competition, and why entrepreneurship is the way for our country to improve the economy.

CIE is an international partner of the University of Cambridge, and provides world-class education as well as a Cambridge diploma. The CIE Academy is now interviewing applicants for the October opening of classes, on the 28th floor RCBC building, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call CIE Academy, 887-2828 or 887-5989.

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Maria Ressa, eyewitness to history

By Butch Jimenez
Contributor

UPDATE. Whenever something significant or life-changing happens in Southeast Asia, TOYM awardee Ressa is always at the forefront, getting the story so she can tell the world.

WHEN the Philippine Ambassador's house in Jakarta was bombed, Maria Ressa was a witness to the tragedy.

When power was turned over to the new prime minister of Singapore after 14 years of the former ruler's reign, she was there, again an eyewitness.

When Gracia Burnham was released from Abu Sayyaf captivity in southern Philippines, she was there.

Whenever something significant or life-changing takes place in Southeast Asia, Maria Ressa is always at the forefront, updating the world. For about two decades now, this has been Ressa's life as CNN Southeast Asia bureau chief. Today, she is in Singapore. Tomorrow, she'll be in Manila, where she will later pack for a trip to Jakarta the following night. She never knows where she will be two weeks from now.

Still, despite her crazy schedule, the events she covers and the powerful individual she meets, she remains grounded, fully aware of her purpose and driven by her mission. Ressa, 2002 Top Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for journalism, exemplifies excellence in broadcast journalism.

Bigger things

"It was like a fluke," Ressa explains her career as a broadcasting journalist. On her fourth year in Molecular Biology at Princeton University, she realized she was meant for something bigger than molecules, biology and life itself. She explored the possibilities.

"On my senior year, I decided I really hated it (molecular biology)," she recalls. "I wanted to be a doctor but I switched and became an English theater and dance major."

After graduation, corporate America wasn't so attractive to her. She chose to come home to the Philippines.

"I wasn't American, and I wasn't Filipino," says Ressa, who was born in the Philippines but raised in the United States. She applied for and got a Fulbright Scholarship, allowing her to stay in the country for a year. One year stretched to years of learning and fulfillment for her, and the local broadcasting industry is all the better for it.

She says 1986, the year she came back, "was a fantastic time to be here." She worked as a consultant for Channel 4 and realized how much the organization needed an overhaul. She eventually worked with all five local networks, until she and Cheche Lazaro, another broadcasting icon, came up with the TV show "The Probe Team."

"With 'Probe,' we realized we could build something really different," says Ressa, who wrote about this and about trusting her instincts, in a piece she contributed to the TOYM compilation titled "Sketches."

"'Probe' was fantastic because it was doing analysis and having an immediate impact on society," she says.

Stimulated, challenged

After five years, she became CNN's Manila bureau chief. It prepared her for the broader responsibility of covering Southeast Asia. As bureau chief, she is in charge of editorial and decides the network's position on stories. She determines which news events are covered, how the stories are tackled, which people are interviewed, and how much resources are dedicated to a story.

Because of the wide scope of her duty, she is stimulated and challenged in every aspect—intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually. "The problem is how do you not get jaded?" she says. "How do you become real so every time you meet a new person you really listen to them and not merely tape recording in your head.

"I think constantly there are two sides to myself that are always at war. There is a very intellectual academic side that wants to understand, believes that research is key, and believes that you have to know the context. There's another side of me that understands that there are things where you can never intellectually distill your emotions or motivation."

She believes her ultimate goal is always to get the message across and to open people's eyes to the truth.

People who care

"How often do you get 10 people who seek perfection in what they do in one room," she says, referring to her winning the TOYM recognition two years ago. She admits she did not really realize the importance of the award until she got together with the other nine awardees. Faced with masters from the field of architecture, forensics, medicine, music and agriculture, she was awed.

"Everybody was so driven, searching perfection in their field," she says. "It reminded me that there are a lot of people who care. That in each of our fields you just continue plodding away with what you think is right, to try to contribute. You have to have faith in what you can do."

Responsibility

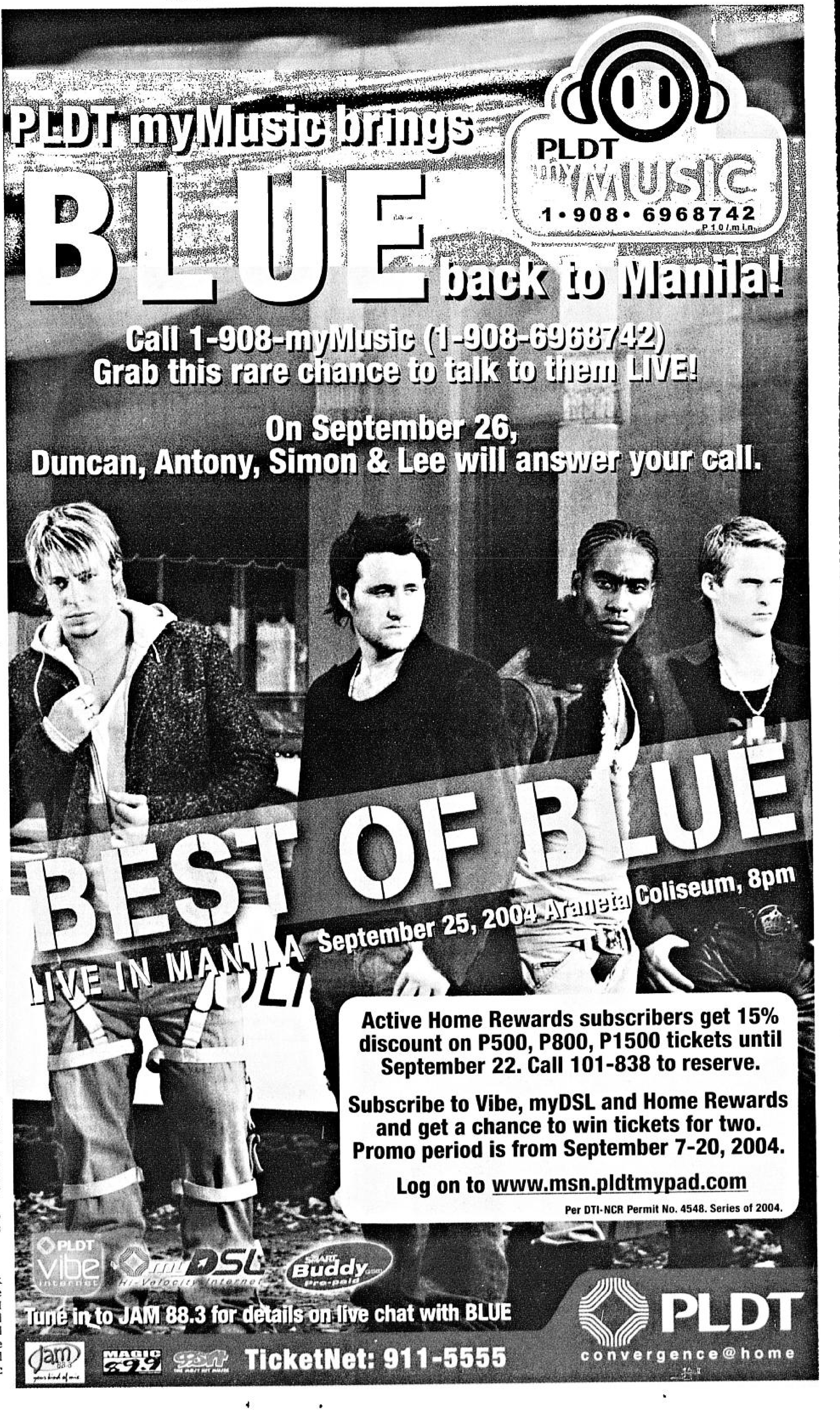
Ressa, like most of the other TOYM recipients, believe that with the award comes great responsibility. "When you are 40, you have a tendency to say, 'I should just concentrate on my life, the world will take care of itself.' But that is not really true."

Ressa believes we need more heroes. She recognizes the TOYM awardees as heroes in their own right. "I realized that one person can make a difference. The cool thing about TOYM is it brings out people who care a lot about what they're doing and who want to make a difference."

Aside from the TOYM trophy, a trail of other achievements and honors proves her unwavering commitment. One of these achievements is the book, "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia," based on her own experience of 17 years of terrorism. She wrote the book after 9/11.

She has also received the National Headliner Award for Investigative Journalism, the SAIS-Novartis International Journalism Award, the Asian Television Awards and the Ferris Professorship of Journalism at Princeton University.

She is not, however, keeping track of her trophies. What she is in fact keeping track of right now is her crew's preparations and packing for the night flight to Jakarta. Another good story is waiting to be told, and she has to be there.



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3	DODGEBALL	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4	GODSEND	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5	ANACONDAS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	THE NOTEBOOK	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
7	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00
9	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
10	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
2	GODSEND	10:40, 12.50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
3	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:40, 4.20, 7.00, 9:50
4	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:40, 12.40, 2.40, 4:40, 6.40, 8:30, 10:00
5	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2	11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30
6	DODGEBALL	10:30, 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6.10, 8:05, 10:00
7	THE NOTEBOOK	10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	DODGEBALL	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
3	THE TERMINAL	12:30, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 10.30
4	GODSEND	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00
5	ANACONDAS	10.20, 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10:00
6	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7	THE NOTEBOOK	10:05, 12.50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05
8	TAG-INIT	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

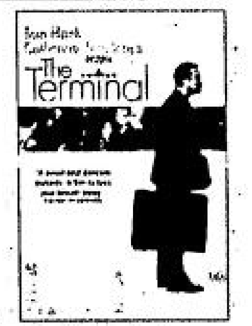
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3	DODGEBALL	11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6.15, 8:30
4	JANDARA	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4.30, 6:30, 8:30
5	THE TERMINAL	12:10, 2:50, 5.30, 8:20
6	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	11:45, 1:55, 4.05, 6.15, 8:30
7	TAG-INIT	11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5.00, 7:00, 9.00
8	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	11:00, 2:00, 3.00, 5.00, 7:00, 8.55

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575.	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 DODGEBALL	1 TAG-INIT	1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL	2 DODGEBALL	2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS	3 THE TERMINAL	3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 TAG-INIT	4 ANACONDAS	4 SUPERSIZE ME
		5 THE STEPFORD WIVES

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS Sn. Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 THE TERMINAL	1 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2 DODGEBALL	2 THUNDERBIRDS	2 DEATH CURSE
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	3 ANACONDAS	3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 HAMOG	4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD	4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 CONNIE AND CARLA	5 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	5 ANACONDAS
		6 CONNIE AND CARLA

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ANACONDAS	1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	2 A CINDERELLA STORY	2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
3 THE NOTEBOOK	3 THE PRINCE AND ME	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 DODGEBALL	4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 SUPERSIZE ME
5 TAG-INIT	5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	5 THE VILLAGE
6 THE TERMINAL	6 KARELASYON	6 KARELASYON



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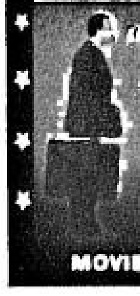
THX

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD



"THE U.S. DOOR IS OPEN"

Watch "The Terminal" at any Robinsons Movieworld branch and get a chance to win a round trip ticket to the U.S. Or take home a HUGO BOSS gift pack!

Promo duration: September 8 to 29, 2004

Robinsons Movieworld and UIP will take you to The Terminal of Los Angeles, California via UNITED AIRLINES

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 DODGEBALL	1 ANACONDAS	1 DODGEBALL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE NOTEBOOK 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE TERMINAL	2 DODGEBALL	2 ANACONDAS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE TERMINAL 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	2 CONNIE & CARLA
3 ANACONDAS	3 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE NOTEBOOK 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANACONDAS 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN
4 GODSEND	4 GODSEND	4 CONNIE & CARLA	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GODSEND 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 ANACONDAS
5 THE NOTEBOOK		5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE NOTEBOOK 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	5 A CINDERELLA STORY
		6 THE TERMINAL		
		7 GODSEND		

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1 DODGEBALL	11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
2 THE TERMINAL	11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI APPLIANCE MADNESS September 9 to 26, 2004	LAGUNA EXPO September 13 to 17, 2004	INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILS. QUIZ BOWL September 16 1:00 to 7:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) Real Groove (Thu), Acoustic Anthology (Fri), Acoustic Jive w/ May Bayot (Sat)	SAVOUR NATURE EXHIBIT BY WWF PHILIPPINES Greenbelt 3 Lobby, September 1 to 14

Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12. 2004

EXPO

TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!
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Tom Hanks Catherine Zeta-Jones

" A sweet and delicate comedy, a film to take your breath away. "

The Terminal

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A RELEASE DISTRIBUTED BY Solar Entertainment Corporation

AYALA CINEMAS IN COOPERATION WITH UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES AND UNITED AIRLINES GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE ROUND TRIP TICKET TO THE U.S.

Every ticket of THE TERMINAL purchased in Ayala Cinemas (Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3 and Alabang Town Center) entitles the moviegoer to one (1) raffle entry.

The ticket booth personnel will ask the customer to fill up the raffle coupon for every purchase of The Terminal movie ticket. Drop boxes will be placed at the cinema lobbies where moviegoers can drop the attached coupon.

Prizes include 1 round trip ticket from Manila to the U.S. valid until March 2005, 5 Hugo Boss gift packs and 10 Ayala Cinemas movie passes.

Promo is valid from September 8 - 25, 2004 (from Mon - Sun) all screenings of The Terminal. Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 25.

Raffle Draw will be on September 30, 5:00pm at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby.

Moviegoer may only win once. In case a moviegoer is drawn more than once, the higher prize will be given.

Winners will be notified through registered mail, newspaper ads and phone call.

Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Cinemas office, 5th flr. Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Winner must present a valid ID, notice received thru registered mail and raffle coupon.

Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the receipt of the notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.

All employees of Ayala Cinemas and its subsidiaries including their relatives up to the second degree in consanguinity affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Prize Tax, travel documents and other related expenses will be shouldered by the winner.

All prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER Glorietta & Greenbelt ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

Red Door swings this month

THIS month, Red Door opens itself to nights of superb live music, entertainment, good food and drinks.

Red Door Resto, Grill and Cocktails starts the week with Happy Hour jamming on Monday. A mini-concert follows on Tuesday with Cruxada. Wednesday has the '60s and '70s music of Retrospect and Alana.

It's hip hop and R&B with Thor and Adjundie on Thursday. And Friday offers an acoustic blowout with Franco and 17:28.

Xsentrik cranks it up even further with alternative and R&B songs, with Alamid on Saturday nights.

Rannie Raymundo and Luke Mejares serenade the crowds on Sept. 18 and 24, respectively.

Also, try Red Door's signature dishes, pepperoni pizza, chicken buffalo wings, the sausage platter and all-time favorites such as *sisig*, sizzling *liempo*, and crispy *pata*.

Whether for food, drinks or music, this is definitely the exciting place in town. Red Door is located at 173 Pasig Blvd. (formerly Shaw Blvd. Extension), Pasig City.

For ticket rates and the nightly schedule, call 747-1191.

NALLOS

Reunion concert in Naga

MARRI Nallos performs in a fund-raising and reunion concert presented by the Metro Manila chapter of the Alumni Association of Ateneo de Naga University on Friday, Sept. 17, at the Ateneo de Naga gym.

The show is titled "Ikaw Pa Rin Ang Mamahalin," which is also the title of Marri's single from her self-titled album from Universal Records.

Marri's mother is a Bicolana. The composer of "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Mamahalin," Edna Dy, is from Naga City. Raffy Amaranto, Marri's musical consultant and vocal coach, is another Bicolano.

Marri's guests in the Naga show include pop icon Nonoy Zuniga who is also a Bicolano, actor-singer Juan Rodrigo, and her band Friends Inc.

REUNION/ A3-3

Mindless, vulgar and funny

From page A3-4

get their shot at redemption.

I am not the biggest fan of mindless humor, but when it's done right, it can be very funny, and "Dodgeball" does it right. I went to its preview at Rockwell primed to laugh, and laugh I did. And the crowd I saw the movie with, a mostly older audience with just a smattering of teens, did seem to be having just as much fun as I was.

Cameos

No doubt the movie is vulgar and at times tries too hard for its laughs, but really, there is no place for good taste, discretion and timidity in this movie. Although "Dodgeball" does feature a clever, witty script, aptly displayed, for instance, in the loose comic byplay between Stiller and Vaughn, the comedy isn't just the gags and punch lines. It's also about the actors who understand the concept of comic timing and know how to effectively realize the humor in certain situations.

Stiller is winningly cartoonish and Vaughn is in his element playing the straight guy. The two leads come together with the joy and assurance of actors who know they are in material that's working.

However, while both men are good, the movie is stolen from them by the supporting cast, including an unlikely bunch of cameos that I would not dare to mention here because it would be unfair. Suffice it to say that they make "Dodgeball" entertaining by simply being in it. (In the case of one TV actor, he draws upon his own reputation to fashion a memorable self-parody.) Taylor, or Mrs. Stiller, also proves herself as a comic actress able to hold her own in the company of her husband.

"Dodgeball" also scores points for its refreshing lack of gross-out toilet humor. Even if it's got plenty of pratfalls and slapstick moments, there are no fart jokes in the movie and not once does it have to rely on bodily fluids to generate laughter.

The movie may not win any screenwriting awards because of this, but such a feat in the genre of comedy could be considered revolutionary by today's standards. Certainly, in my book, that alone is worth the price of admission.

Reunion...

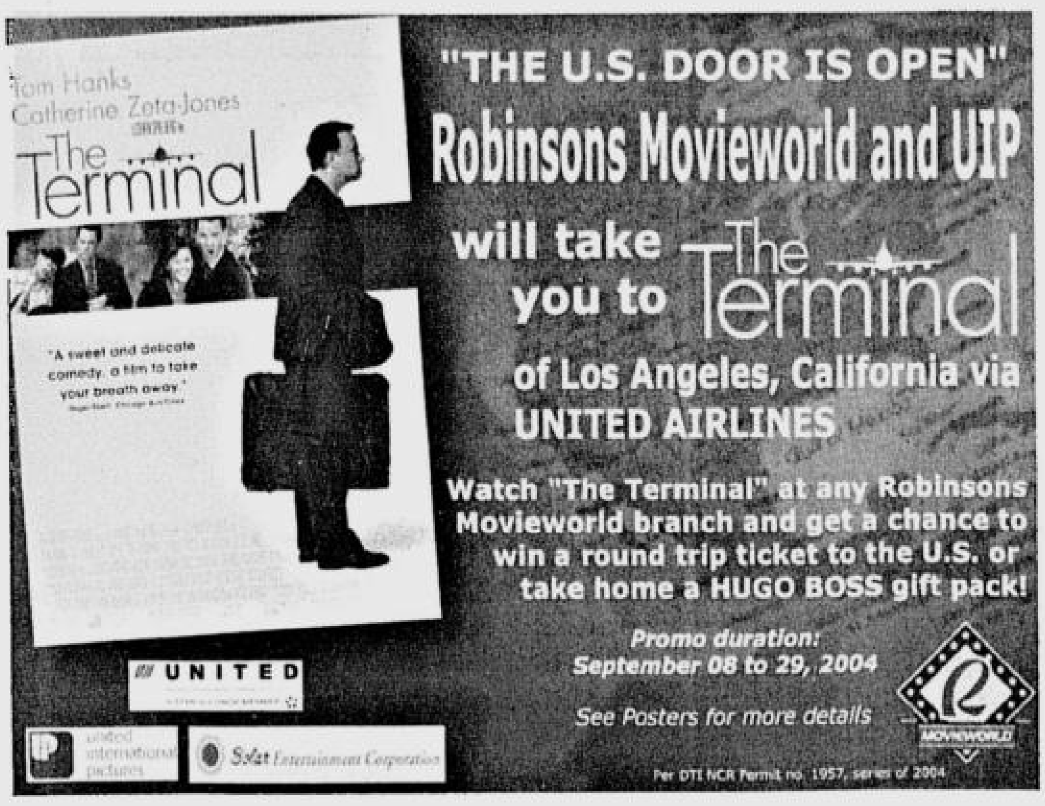
From page A3-2

The front act, Arla Floro, is a winner of a "Sing a la Marri" contest.

This will be Marri's first time to perform in her mother's native place.

"The event is a reunion of Bicolano artists and a venue for meeting classmates and old friends and for contributing to the projects of the Metro Manila chapter," says chapter president Danny Pelagio.

Tickets will be available at Jollibee Naga and the Ateneo de Naga gym.


Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
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Promo duration: September 08 to 29, 2004

See Posters for more details

Per DTI NCR Permit no. 1957, series of 2004

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
PG - 13 / FS : 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:55PM
2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
GP / FS : 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM LMF: 9:40PM
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS : 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM LMF: 9:50PM
4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
PG-13 / FS : 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM LMF: 9:10PM

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) ANACONDAS
PG-13 / FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) TOOLBOX MURDER
2. ANACONDAS
3. TAG-INIT
4. THE TERMINAL
5. DODGEBALL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2 UNDERWORLD
3 NAGDADALAGA
4 (SDDS) TAG-INIT
5 THE TERMINAL
6 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
7 (DTS) ANACONDAS
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE TERMINAL
2 ANACONDAS
3 TAG-INIT

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 TAG-INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANACONDAS
5 GODSEND

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 TAG-INIT
3 TOOLBOX MURDER
4 GODSEND
5 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 DODGEBALL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 BOLD AFFAIR

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) GODSEND
2 (SDDS) ANACONDAS
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 GOLD (DTS) DODGEBALL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE TERMINAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
8 [illegible] TOOLBOX MURDER
9 [illegible] HAUNTED SPIRIT
10 [illegible] PRINCESS DIARIES 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX
Tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS) THE TERMINAL
5 (DTS) DODGEBALL
6 (Dolby) TOOL BOX MURDER
7 (Dolby) GODSEND

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANACONDAS
2 DODGEBALL
3 TAG-INIT
4 TOOLBOX MURDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
2 OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
3 (DTS EX) OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
4 OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) STEPFORD WIVES

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY) CONNIE & CARLA
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 STEPFORD WIVES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
4 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 STEPFORD WIVES
2 THE TERMINAL
3 (DTS) ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 STEPFORD WIVES
2 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 RING - O

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BULLETS
2 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 STEPFORD WIVES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
2 CHRONICLE OF RIDDICK
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 EVE
2 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ANACONDAS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 SUGAT
3 TAG-INIT
4 (DTS) ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 DARK DANCER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SPIRAL
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SURUM
2 DODGEBALL
3 HAMOG
4 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TAG-INIT
2 ANACONDAS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

movietime
SM CINEMA

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Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 DODGEBALL
3 THE TERMINAL
4 GODSEND
5 TOOLBOX MURDERS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 ANACONDAS
11 CONNIE AND CARLA
12 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ANACONDAS
5 GODSEND
6 THE NOTEBOOK
7 DODGEBALL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE TERMINAL
10 COLLATERAL
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 TOOLBOX MURDERS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 TOOLBOX MURDERS
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE TERMINAL
5 DODGEBALL
6 ANACONDAS
7 GODSEND
8 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
9 ANACONDAS
10 I, ROBOT
11 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
12 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 TOOLBOX MURDERS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 THE TERMINAL
6 DODGEBALL
7 ANACONDAS
8 GODSEND

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 TOOLBOX MURDERS
3 THE TERMINAL
4 GODSEND
5 ANACONDAS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 DODGEBALL
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 COLLATERAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ANACONDAS
2 GODSEND
3 THE TERMINAL
4 TOOLBOX MURDERS

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17
1 THE ALAMO
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 ANACONDAS
4 THUNDERBIRDS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 ANACONDAS
2 CONNIE AND CARLA
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1 ANACONDAS
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 THE TERMINAL
4 THUNDERBIRDS

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888
1 DODGEBALL
2 PRINCESS DIARIES
3 ANACONDAS
4 THE TERMINAL
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 TOOLBOX MURDERS
8 GODSEND
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055
1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL
3 DODGEBALL
4 GODSEND

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8234975
1 DODGEBALL
2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS
4 GODSEND

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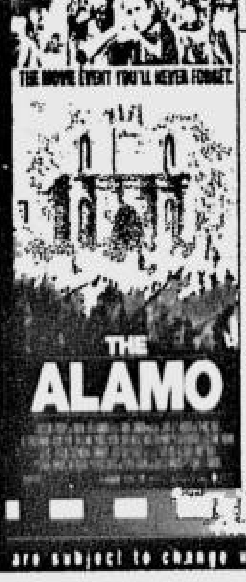
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Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of his forces. Led by three men – the young, brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Mindless, vulgar and funny

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

IN AN era when a moviegoer is lucky to find one or two humorous moments in a 90-minute so-called "comedy," one might consider "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" a rare gift.

Laughter nowadays is a wonderful and elusive thing, and you have to be thankful for any movie that could consistently provide it, regardless of whether that movie is dumb or shallow. To be fair, "Dodgeball" is not moronic to a fault, but it is truly, side-splittingly funny.

SIDE-SPLITTING. Stiller (left) loses all his dignity as the villain vs Vaughn.

REVIEW

That Ben Stiller stars in "Dodgeball" already gives you a fair idea of what to expect of the movie, at least as far as the level of humor is concerned. An adept comic performer with a face that could be a live-action answer to a Cartoon Network question, Stiller in this movie manages to lose all his dignity in playing the villain—and that is actually a compliment.

Better vs loser

Stiller is White Goodman, the buffed-up and coiffured egomaniac who owns Globo Gym, an upscale fitness and cosmetic center where all the customers seem like poster boys and girls for physical perfection. They thrive on the motto: "We're better than you and you know it."

Across the street from Globo Gym is Average Joe's, an old-fashioned gym whose menagerie of misfit clients constitutes a celebration of the loser ethos. They're the kind of people Globo Gym would not touch with a 10-foot pole, which is why they've found a home at Average Joe's and a friend in its owner, the likeable slacker Peter La Fleur (Vince Vaughn), a man who, in his own words, doesn't have any goals in life because he doesn't want to be disappointed if he fails to accomplish them.

Peter accepts his clients for who they are and he doesn't even nag them when they fail to pay their membership fees. But his kindhearted and un-businesslike ways have left Average Joe's in a financial fix. A lawyer named Kate (Christine Taylor, Ben Stiller's real-life wife) shows up one day and tells Peter he has to come up with $50,000 to keep the bank from foreclosing the mortgage on the gym. To make things worse, White has been salivating at the prospect of buying Average Joe's from the bank so he can tear it down and make way for a parking garage for his clientele.

In a blatant plot contrivance that justifies the title, Peter and his friends enter a dodgeball tournament in Las Vegas with a cash prize of (what do you know) $50,000 for the eventual champion.

Underdog

A brief explanation of dodgeball, which I found after I Googled it, actually has several professionally run tournaments all over the globe (there's even an International Dodgeball Federation). I used to play a local version of the game here when I was a kid, in which two people from opposite sides would try to "out" the kids in the middle by hitting them with a ball. In the American version of the sport that's featured in the movie, two teams with six players each try to eliminate each other using several balls.

It is obvious from their first game—in which they are soundly beaten by a girl scout team but nevertheless manage to advance because of a technicality—that no one in Average Joe's can play the game well. But this, after all, is a triumph-of-the-underdog flick.

Peter sees a chance to improve the team by recruiting Kate, who just happens to be a former softball player with a cannon for an arm. And after the old dodgeball pro, Patches O' Houlihan (Rip Torn), takes on the coaching chores for Average Joe's, you know Peter and his group of losers are destined to

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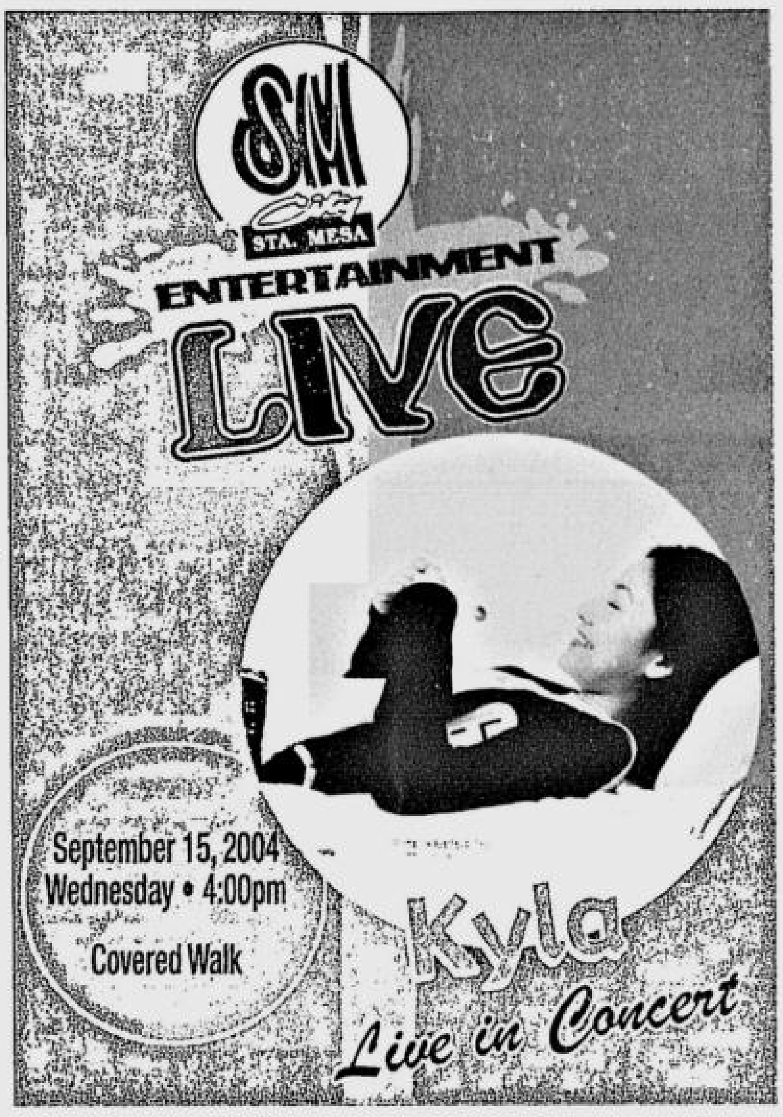
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BIR exceeds August collection goal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue collected P43.128 billion in August, surpassing its collection target for the month and helping the national government stay on track to meeting its budget deficit target for this year.

The collection last month was slightly higher than the P43.114-billion target given to the BIR, which accounts for more than 80 percent of the national government's revenues.

The August collection brought the BIR's cumulative revenue contribution for the first eight months of the year to P311.21 billion, or missing by a slight margin its target of P43.77 billion. The latest cumulative eight-month collection figure, however, was higher than the P281.41 billion collected during the same period in 2003.

"Increasing collections from quarterly corporate income tax payments helped offset the downtrend in tax payments from government securities," the BIR said in a statement. The revenue agency earlier said tax collections from the trading of government securities have dwindled because of the Bureau of Treasury's previous moves to reject bids for its treasury bonds and notes due to the high prices that the financial market was asking.

The BIR also said that meeting the August collection target was attributed to its tax compliance verification drive, under which revenue personnel were sent to the field to check on the tax compliance of business establishments. The BIR said the drive helped its large taxpayers unit to collect P927 million more than its target collection.

The BIR's collection performance in August was the second consecutive month that it exceeded its goal. In July, the BIR collected P38.89 billion, or higher than its target of P38.02 billion.

The collections in July and August ended the consecutive months of missed monthly collection targets, which were feared to force government to fail to meet its budget deficit target of P197.8 billion for this year.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the revenue agency was always confident of meeting its full-year collection target of P477 billion despite posting lower-than-programmed collections in the previous months before July. She explained that it has been a trend for the BIR to post higher collections in the second half of the year.

Small oil firms seen raising diesel price

By Abigail L. Ho

OWNERS of diesel-run vehicles may be in for another surprise as pump prices of diesel may again rise within the week by between 40 centavos and 70 centavos a liter.

Despite statements by the Department of Energy that another increase during the month was unlikely, local oil firms may have to increase diesel pump prices due to some upward movement in prices of finished products over the past few days.

Fernando Martinez, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, said the price of diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products has started inching up again, after softening over the past two weeks.

He said finished product importers might have to implement an increase of between 60 and 70 centavos for every liter of diesel.

Gasoline prices, on the other hand, should remain steady, he said.

Flying V director Macky Lopez said

SMALL/B5

Globe, Smart insist cell phone theft a police matter

By Clarissa S. Batino

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IF YOU lose a cellular phone, don't go blaming the wireless giants.

Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc., two of the country's biggest and most profitable companies, said they too wanted to help put a stop to the rampant theft of mobile phones.

But officials from the two companies insisted that theft was a police matter.

"This is a purely law enforcement issue. Why must cellular phone companies be taken to task for something that is outside their ambit?" asked Rogelio Quevedo, head of legal and carrier relations at Smart.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said phone companies were already doing all they can to help reduce phone theft by immediately blocking handsets upon the order of the National Telecommunications Commission.

"We just need the NTC order and in a few hours, we can block a stolen phone. We are cooperating with the authorities but we could not prevent these phones from being given new IMEI numbers if they are brought to places like Greenhills," said Nazareno. The IMEI, or International Mobile Equipment Identity, is a 15-digit code; each cell phone has a unique number.

Froilan Castelo, Globe's head of regulatory affairs, noted that watches were once the most coveted item among snatchers—and that when thieves stole watches or jewelry, nobody dragged the watch manufacturer or the jewelry-maker into the mess.

"This is a police matter. Telecom firms are not equipped to deal with this issue ex-

GLOBE/B5

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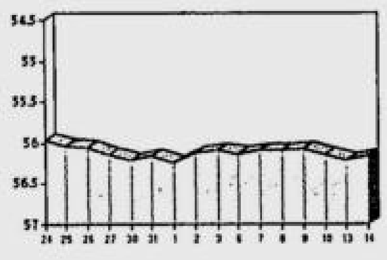

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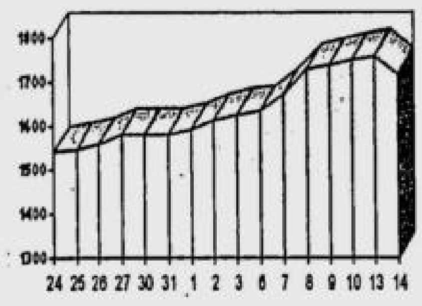

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 2.34% lower

SHARE prices closed sharply lower yesterday, falling 2.34 percent as profit-taking set in after the market hit four-year highs, dealers said.

The resignation of National Treasurer Mina Figueroa, coming at a time of an impending fiscal crisis, also dampened investor sentiment, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 41.17 points to 1,717.45 after trading between 1,710.44 and 1,758.62.

Losers beat gainers 63 to 19, with 32 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 1.15 billion shares worth P712.1 million after 2.89 billion shares worth P1.05 billion on Monday.

The all-shares index gained 4.37 points to 1,071.10 while the commercial-industrial index fell 72.04 to 2,742.70, property lost 13.74 to 572.28, mining gained 6.06 to 1,830.13, oil was down 0.02 at 1.64 and banking and finance shed 4.66 to 489.36.

"Today's fall was widely expected. The market cannot continuously go up for so long. After some time, a correction needs to happen," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

He said Figueroa's resignation, while widely anticipated, also affected equities trading.

"But overall, the market remains bullish. After a few sessions of consolidation, the market may again be in for another rally," Del Castillo said.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the market's support is at 1,700 and resistance at 1,780.

Top-traded Globe Telecom lost P45 to P1,045 while Philippine Long Distance Telephone dropped P60 to P1,385. *AFP*

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4. Contestants can use either digital or conventional film camera.
5. A participant can submit a maximum of five entries. Photos should be printed in 8x10 inches, without borders, unmounted. No digital enhancement or desktop printout will be allowed.
6. Winners will be required to present the original negatives or data file for verification of ownership.
7. An entry should have a title. The participant must put his/ her complete name, address, contact information, and signature on the back of the photo.
8. The participant retains the copyright of the entry.
9. Each entry should be put in a brown envelope.
10. The contest is from June 30, 2004 to November 19, 2004.
11. Entries should be submitted to the Philippine Daily Inquirer (c/o Marketing department-Hazel Soriaga, Ching dela Cruz), Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.
12. Entry must be exclusive to the contest, unpublished and must not have been submitted to other contests.
13. Criteria: Relevance to the theme (30%), composition (30%), and creativity (40%).
14. Winners will be notified through phone and mail. Their names will also be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
15. Prizes can be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer within (60) days from receipt of notification.
16. Winning entries will be displayed during the bridal fair, "Wedding March at NBC Tent", presented by PDI and cbv7 Media master, on January 22-23, 2005.
17. Winners must present 3 valid I.Ds.
18. The decision of the board of judges is final.
19. Employees of Canon Phils., PDI, cbv7 Media master, and their advertising agency, dealers and participating outlets, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity, are disqualified.
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HGC to bid out ₱20B in assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED Home Guaranty Corp. plans to bid out at least P20 billion worth of idle assets to free up cash for the government's priority shelter programs.

Banking sources told the INQUIRER that the HGC board, chaired by Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, would vote on the criteria for the selection of a financial adviser in its next meeting later this month.

At least 14 companies—consisting of big auditing firms, investment banks, property firms and asset management companies—are competing for the position of financial adviser, the sources said.

The finance department wanted the HGC to unload the assets, consisting of mortgages and acquired properties, through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) mode but other options, including joint venture deals and outright sales, were likewise being considered, the sources added.

In a separate interview, HGC president Gonzalo Bongolan confirmed that the housing agency was working on an asset disposal program: "We really want to dispose assets given the momentum brought about by the success of the NHMFC's (National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.) bidding," Bongolan said.

NHMFC sold P13.4 billion worth of bad assets to a unit of German lender Deutsche Bank last May.

"We also want to do this for liquidity management and in support of the revenue enhancement program of the government," Bongolan said.

The companies which had expressed intention to bid for the mandate from HGC were: Bancommerce Investment Corp., Dale Strickland, Ernst & Young Transaction Advisory Services, Equity Managers Asia, First Metro Investment Corp., FS Dulalia Realty, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co., Leechiu & Associates, Metro Alliance Property Management Corp., PriceWaterhouseCoopers Financial Advisors, Philippine Commercial Capital Inc., Punongbayan & Araullo, Sea Consultants and The Property Forum Philippines.

Bongolan said the bidding would be done in conformity with the government procurement law. The disposition mode shall depend on the structure to be proposed by the financial advisor, he said.

The HGC had registered the assets under the disposition program with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in case the financial advisor would recommend the SPV mode.

The SPV Law intends to help banks and financial institutions get rid of their non-performing assets by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax relief and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005.

Created in 1950, HGC was tasked to operate a credit guaranty program in support of government's efforts to promote home ownership. The HGC provides risk guarantees and fiscal incentives for housing credits extended by financing institutions, aiming to stimulate the flow of funds from both the government and private sectors for housing and urban development.

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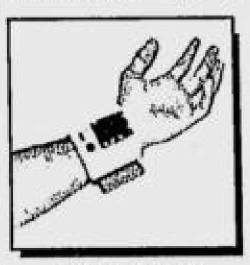

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SMC sees $300M in savings via import substitution plan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp. (SMC), expects to save roughly $300 million in foreign exchange a year through its raw material sourcing program, under which the company will replace imported raw materials with those produced by local farmers.

Cassava, corn, soybeans and sorghum are among the crops used heavily by SMC for its feeds, liquor and soft drinks businesses. Millions of dollars are spent yearly on the importation of these materials from the US, Argentina and India.

SMC chair and chief executive officer Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. said that aside from helping local farmers, the program would also help the government in terms of dollar savings.

Apart from serving as a sure long-term market, SMC will provide technical and financial assistance to the farmers.

"We hope to develop these high value crop growing sectors into a base for self-sufficiency, at least for San Miguel," said Cojuangco in a statement.

The program has three components: training and technology transfer; financing, and the provision of a steady, assured market characterized by stable pricing.

The raw material sourcing program was first introduced last year in Bukidnon, Zamboanga del Sur, South Cotabato, the Caraga region (Eastern Mindano consisting of the cities of Butuan and Surigao and the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur), Negros, Panay in the Visayas, Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos Region.

San Miguel currently imports 50 percent of its cassava, 40 percent of its corn and 100 percent of its soybean and soybean meal requirements. Once the program is in full swing, the company anticipates acquiring 100 percent of its raw materials from local sources.

The sourcing program is expected to generate one million jobs over a five-year period.

An advocate of agricultural modernization and countryside development, Cojuangco said he hoped other companies would follow SMC's example "and develop programs to source raw materials locally."

"With three out of four poor Filipinos living in rural areas, we need to do our part in countryside development," Cojuangco also said.

The raw material sourcing program is just one of the several components of SMC's Integrated Agro-Industrial Zone (IAIZ) growth model which groups several operations.

SMC hopes to put up several IAIZ in strategic locations nationwide such as in Central Luzon, Northern Mindanao, Southern Tagalog, Northern Luzon and Visayas.

CAP told to stop selling securities

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has ordered pre-need giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. to stop selling securities until it has fulfilled the requirements imposed by the SEC in relation to CAP's application to sell new securities.

A member of SEC's oversight committee for CAP said the SEC had not accepted CAP's application to sell P1 billion in new securities to replenish the P5 billion in securities it had completely sold.

In a sales report submitted to the SEC in August, CAP said it had already exhausted the P5 billion worth of plans and that it was intending to sell new plans to the public. As of mid-August, CAP exceeded the amount of plans it was allowed to sell by P64 million.

To be able to meet demand and earn revenue to service its obligations to planholders, CAP had asked the SEC for authority to sell P1 billion in new securities.

The SEC however did not accept the application and asked the company to complete certain requirements. It also asked CAP to stop selling securities until its new application was approved.

The SEC source could not immediately disclose the requirements imposed on CAP but said that CAP was already working on them. CAP officials were not available for comment as of press time.

The SEC official stressed however that the P64 million worth of contracts entered into by CAP in excess of their P5-billion limit were "valid and binding."

The official said the SEC might have to impose a penalty on CAP for the plans sold in excess of the limit.

The SEC has given CAP until the end of this month to present its final business plan and to bring in new investors to address its trust fund deficit. These are the major factors the SEC will consider in renewing the pre-need company's dealer's license.

As of end-2003, CAP reported a paper trust fund deficit of P17.2 billion. Sources said CAP's trust fund assets, being managed by its trustee banks, had not grown sufficiently to match its total actuarial reserve liability or net liability to plan holders amounting to P25.6 billion.

Elizabeth Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 14, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
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BANKS					
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Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	1,017,800
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	29,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.49	170,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27	454,500
Philippine National Bank	23	23.25	23	23.25	500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	22	22	21.75	21.75	65,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	7,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2360	2370	2360	2370	760
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	200,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1590	1595	1590	1590	1,100
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21	6,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.69	230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1070	1070	1045	1045	178,390
Ipeople Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	35,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.27	820,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.65	8,083,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1400	1400	1385	1385	78,460
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.65	910,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	24,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	35,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23	23.25	603,700
Petron Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.7	2,914,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	65,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.55	984,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	140,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.4	2.55	2.32	2.42	6,698,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	30,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	29	29	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	247,200
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.79	0.74	0.76	760,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	690,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	4,500
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	129,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	60,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6	6.1	9,043,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	285,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	18,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	308,000
APC Group Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	123,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.16	0.16	30,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15	15	14.75	15	22,900
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.55	8,450,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	480,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	3,900,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.165	0.17	0.155	0.155	1,970,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.02	2.06	3,890,000
Ever-GotesCo.Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	9,300,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	619,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.0775	0.0775	4,600,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.06	1.94	1.96	742,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	46,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.18	5,468,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	68,990,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	1,290,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.145	1,440,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	980,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	5,290,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,400,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	4,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.68	1.68	409,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	1.04	0.95	1	510,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	4,620,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	950,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	21	21	21	21	44,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	7,594,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.39	18,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	2,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.34	29,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	3,544,000
GotesCo.Land, Inc.	0.0625	0.085	0.0625	0.085	1,700,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.205	0.205	6,340,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6	6.1	8,302,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3.05	3	3	38,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co.B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	130,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	34,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	108,700,000
OmiCo Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	447,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,000,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	15,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	6,200,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	111,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	30,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said its assistant corporate secretary Florentino Mabasa Jr. had sold 1,150 of his PLDT shares at P1,375.

* * *

MEDUSA Mining Ltd. and Bachtech Mining Corp. have signed a joint venture agreement for a project involving the treatment of refractory ores.

* * *

FAST Transfers Inc. has transferred its offices to 21st Floor Strata 2000 Condominium, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

FORTUNE Securities Inc., a broker firm, voluntarily ceased trading operations on June 30. The security positions of its trading clients were transferred to Imperial de Guzman, Abalos & Co. Inc. as its successor.

* * *

PJB PACIFIC Securities (Philippines) Inc. voluntarily suspended trading operations on Aug. 31. The security positions of its trading clients were transferred to BA Securities.

Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

September 14, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.815794	1.000000	56.1690
Japan	Yen	0.007414	0.009088	0.5105
United Kingdom	Pound	1.465002	1.795800	100.8683
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104601	0.128220	7.2020
Switzerland	Franc	0.648021	0.794344	44.6175
Canada	Dollar	0.626810	0.768344	43.1571
Singapore	Dollar	0.480840	0.589414	33.1068
Australia	Dollar	0.567943	0.696185	39.1040
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.163966	2.652590	148.9933
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217545	0.266667	14.9784
Brunei	Dollar	0.479427	0.587682	33.0095
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019662	0.024102	1.3538
UAE	Dirham	0.222118	0.272272	15.2932
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.225800	68.8520
Argentina	Peso	0.271388	0.332668	18.6856
Brazil	Real	0.281017	0.344471	19.3486
Denmark	Kroner	0.134435	0.164791	9.2561
India	Rupee	0.017692	0.021687	1.2181
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214711	0.263193	14.7833
Mexico	New Peso	0.070552	0.086483	4.8577
New Zealand	Dollar	0.534912	0.655695	36.8297
Norway	Kroner	0.119713	0.146744	8.2425
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013867	0.016998	0.9548
South Africa	Rand	0.124549	0.152672	8.5754
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000873	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.110022	0.134865	7.5752
Syria	Pound	0.022580	0.027678	1.5546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024076	0.029512	1.6577
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000426	0.000522	0.0293

Fiscal crisis fears jack up cost of foreign borrowings

By Michelle V. Remo

MARKET jitters following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a fiscal crisis jacked up interest rates on foreign borrowings, thus worsening the government's already serious debt problem.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong told the Senate committee on finance yesterday, that the government's foreign borrowing cost has reached 490 basis points or 4.9 percent over the international benchmark Libor rate, when it sold $1 billion in sovereign bonds last week.

The borrowing cost before the President's declaration was hovering between 400 and 450 bps or 4 to 4.5 percent over Libor.

"So in effect, our borrowing cost has increased by about $100 million," committee chair Sen. Manuel Villar said.

In comparison, Malaysia's foreign borrowing has a spread of only 87 bps over Libor, while Thailand's is at 100 bps.

The higher the spread, the riskier the investment, from the point of view of the investors.

The government issued $1 billion in bonds last week, of which $300 million would mature in 2015, and the rest in 2025.

The interest rate for the 2015 bonds was 8.875 percent, while that of the 2025 bonds was 10.625 percent.

The proceeds of the bond issue would be used to finance the operating expenses of state-owned National Power Corp.

The $1 billion in additional foreign borrowings has increased the national government's debt stock, which has already reached P4.1 trillion as of February this year.

RP seeks animation contracts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL animation firms are going for a larger share of animation work sourced overseas by major international film and television companies.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), three major local animation studios would join 1,200 others in the International Market Conference for TV, Video, Cable and Satellite Entertainment Content (Mipcom) 2004 on Oct. 4 to 8 in France.

Philippine participants include Philippine Animation Studio Inc. (Pasi), Toon City Animation Inc. and Top Draw Animation Inc.

These and other firms produce work for foreign shows, including Scooby Doo, Tom and Jerry, Addams Family, The Mask, The Jetsons, Dragon Ball Z and Captain Planet.

Local firms are working to get themselves known in the international market due to the huge potential of the animation industry.

According to the De La Salle University's Center for Business and Economic Research, animation work outsourced to the country accounted for 30 percent of jobs in the Asia-Pacific region and was expected to grow 70 percent.

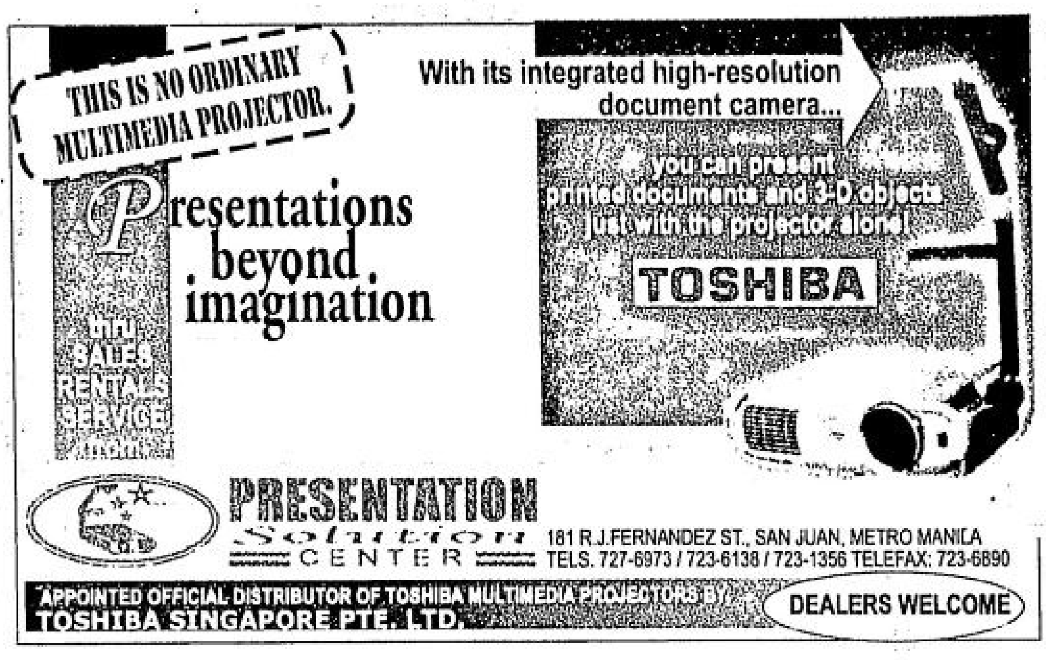
Data from India's National Association of Software and Service Companies also showed that the global market for animation outsourcing was worth at least $50 billion in 2004 and 2005.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said in a statement that the local firms' participation in Mipcom 2004 would allow the animators to explore other markets.

About half of animation jobs coming in are from the United States.

Other markets include The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Italy, China, Singapore, France and India.

Aside from actual drawing and illustration, local animation studios also specialize in pre-production design, post-production, production proper, animation for TV shows and digital painting.



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KOREA TRADE CENTER, MANILA
announces the following trade events in Korea:

"KOREA ELECTRONICS SHOW"
Date : October 6 to 10, 2004
Venue : COEX, Seoul, Korea
Exhibit Items: IT, Electronic Appliances Electronic Parts, Electrical Goods, etc.

******

"KYUNGBUK BUSINESS MEETING"
Date : October 6, 2004
Venue : Hyundai Hotel in Kyungjoo City, Kyungbuk, Korea
Featured Items: Electrical & Electronic Goods/Parts, Auto Parts, Machinery, etc.

**Participants will be given three (3) nights free hotel .

****

"KYONGGI BUSINESS MEETING"
Date : October 20, 2004
Venue : Kyonggi Korea Trade Center Kyonggi, Korea
Featured Items : IT, Electrical and Electronics, Auto Parts, etc.

**Participants will be given four (4) nights free hotel and 50% of round trip airway ticket cost.

"KYONGGI VENTURE SHOW" will be held from Oct. 18 to 21 at the same venue.

BUSINESSMEN who are interested to attend in any of the above trade events, please call at tel.no. 893-1183/893-3244/812-4079/Fax. No. 817-3369 and ask for Ms. Armi for further details. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPT.20,2004

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* All rates effective October 2004, per person on twin-sharing, min. 2 pax required • Price is not valid for Christmas and New Year (surcharge applies)

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Philscan Travel & Tours	8166486
Rajah Travel Ermita	5238801-07
Trader's Travel Corp.	2415101-06
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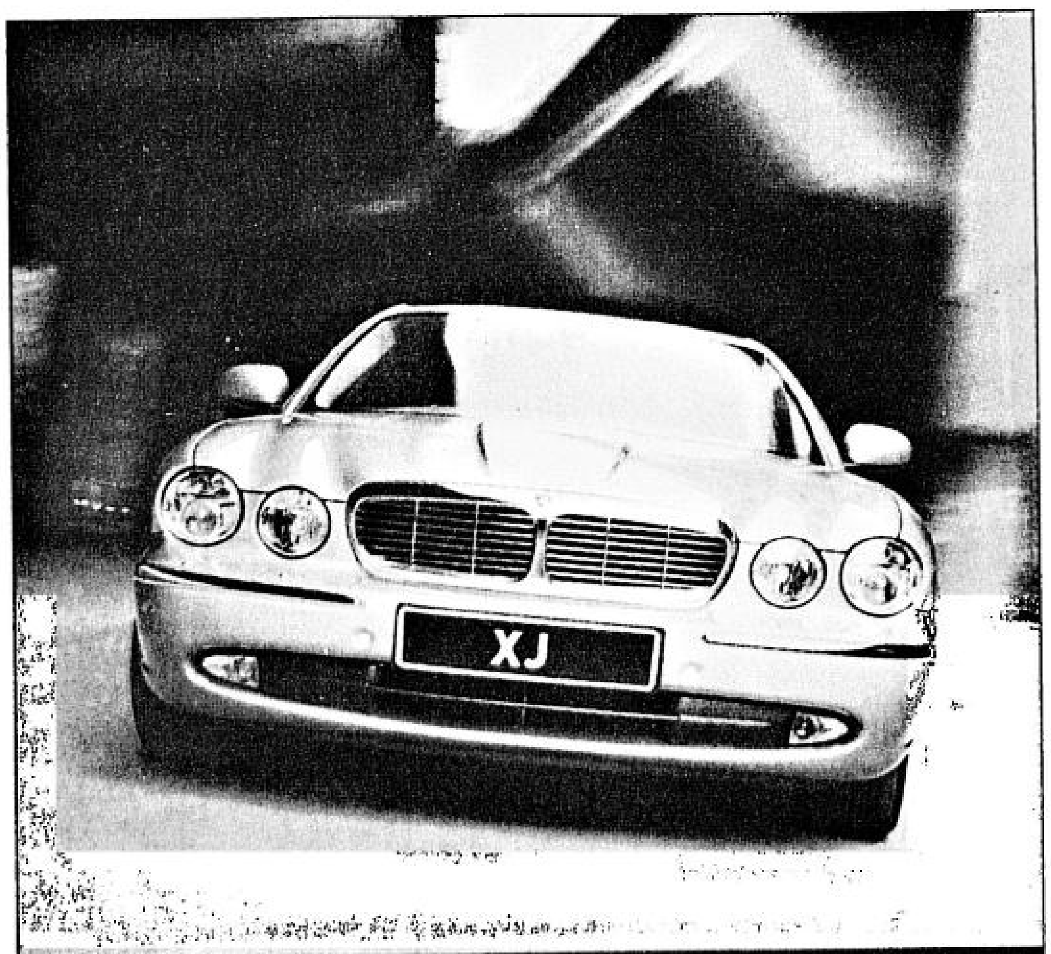

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RP, EU eye trade pact

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT and the European Union are bent on enhancing trade relations through a "trans-regional initiative," given the slow pace of efforts to forge a free trade pact.

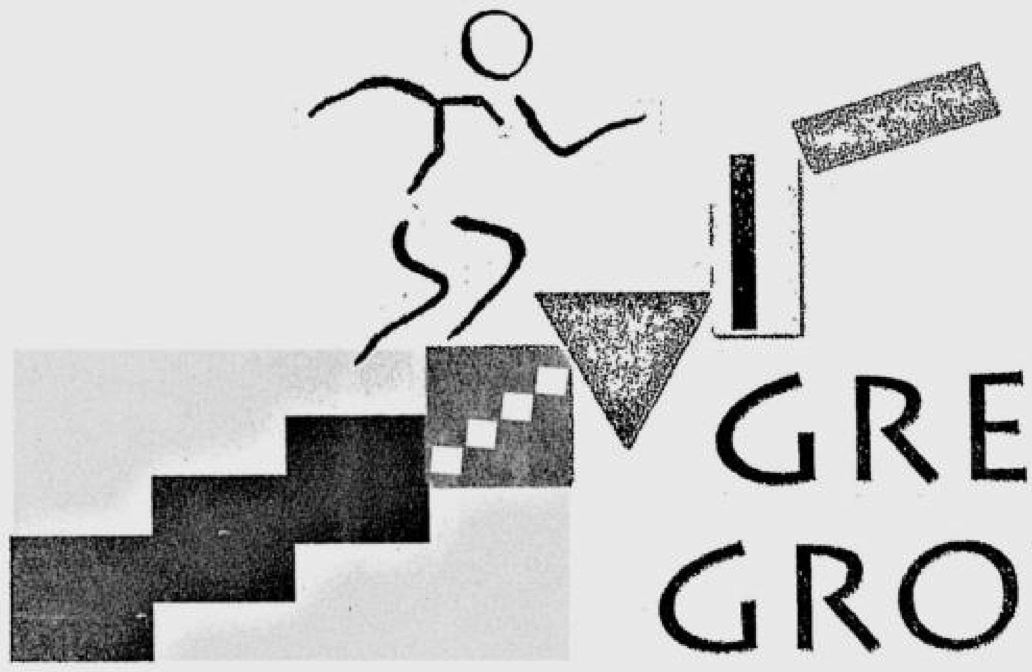
Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said he and other Asean economic ministers recently met with EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy in Jakarta and agreed to pursue a Trans-Regional EU-Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Trade Initiative or Treati.

"The Treati is not a substitute to an FTA, but it is in preparation for one," Purisima said.

The priority areas for cooperation include trade facilitation, investment facilitation and promotion, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, industrial product standards, tourism, trade and the environment, forestry products, and intellectual property rights.

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2004

15-17 September 2004
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel



"The hard thing when you get old is to keep your horizons open. The first part of your life, everything is in front of you, all your potential and promise. But over the years, you make decisions, you carve yourself into a given shape. Then the challenge is to discover the green growing edge."
- Howard Thurman
theologian and contemporary mystic

GREEN GROWING EDGE
Fresh Starts, Creative Ventures in Catholic Education Today

The member schools of the 1,200-strong Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines take time to come together in a National Convention that aims to promote unity and oneness, provide new, creative and doable solutions and strategies, and, foster hope in these challenging times.

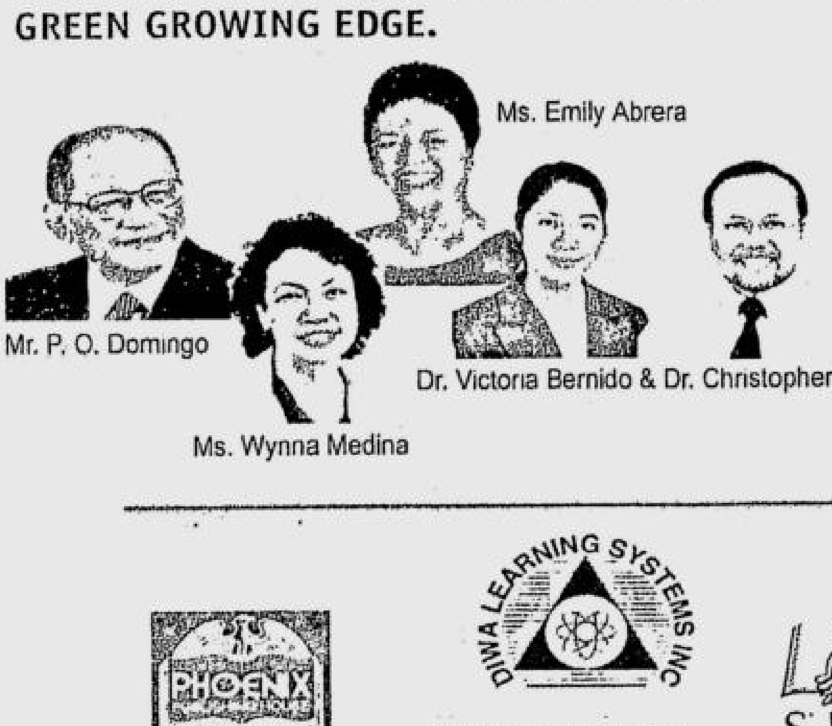
In its Convention last year, CEAP explored ways to make ends meet – particularly the ends of excellence, economics and evangelization. This year, the CEAP schools take time to see where, in the educational system and in the schools' current operations and programs, have they dared to go beyond boundaries to become better schools and to achieve their mission of education.

The 2004 Convention will present strategies and experiences of schools which did not confine themselves to just making ends meet but pushed the limits in the same areas of institutional and academic excellence, financial stability and evangelical endeavors.

The delegates, guests and the organizers of this Convention shall look at and hope to be inspired by the fresh starts and creative ventures of individuals and schools that rose to the challenge to discover...the GREEN GROWING EDGE.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVENTION PROGRAMME

KEYNOTE: **Ms. Emily A. Abrera** *Chairperson* *McCann-Erickson, Philippines*	
PLENARY SESSIONS	CONCURRENT SESSIONS During the three Concurrent Sessions, the assembly will be divided into four groups according to levels and function. Each group will have one to three paper presentations per session. The papers are from various Catholic/private schools from all over the country that responded to CEAP's Call for Papers and are willing to share their actual experiences in implementing creative/innovative school programs/projects. A total of 24 papers will be presented.
Academic Excellence: Strategies for Enhanced Learning **Dr. M. Victoria Carpio-Bernido and Dr. Christopher Bernido** *Principal & President respectively, Central Visayan Institute Foundation*	Concurrent Sessions 1: **Institutional and Academic Excellence** Paper Presentations & Workshops
Economics in Private Education: Strategies for Sustainability **Mr. P. O. Domingo** *Chairman of the Board, University of the East*	Concurrent Sessions 2: **Economics and Community Extension** Paper Presentations & Workshops
Evangelization: New Wine in New Wineskin **Ms. Wynna Marie A. Medina** *President, St. Paul University Manila*	Concurrent Sessions 3: **Evangelization** Paper Presentations & Workshops
PLENARY SESSION: **The National Financial Situation Today: Implications to Philippine Catholic Education** **Dr. Ernesto M. Pernia** *School of Economics, University of the Philippines*	



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Blackballing parallel Bimmers

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THOSE who brought in or acquired BMWs from parallel importers pay a surcharge whenever they bring in their cars and SUVs to any authorized BMW dealer for servicing.

But, under a plan being considered by the new BMW Philippines president, any Bimmer acquired outside the official dealership would no longer be serviced at all—nada, zip, nothing—starting January.

According to the grapevine, BMW has been encouraged by the success of accredited Porsche dealer Robert Coyiuto Jr., who also happens to be a BMW dealer through PGA Cars, in protecting his already limited Porsche market from the aggressive inroads of Subic and Clark importers.

And because these high-end vehicles have advanced microchip-embedded technologies in their engines, only an authorized dealer would have the latest computerized program that could service and diagnose whatever ails these expensive toys.

BMW is aggressively trying to move its remaining inventory of the 3 series through a 25 percent down, four-year no-interest installment plan, amid an alleged onslaught of 5, 7 and X5 series from undercutting parallel importers.

In addition to BMW, Jaguar and Land Rover dealer Wellington Soong has also imposed the surcharge policy to protect his fledgling distributorship from tax-dodging importers.

It is not immediately clear if CATS Motors, the de facto Mercedes Benz distributor, would follow suit.

Gatchalian counsel slapped down

AIR Philippines has lost its Supreme Court appeal over a $65,000 case, all because of the negligence and dilly-dallying tactics of its former chief in-house counsel, Manolito Manalo.

The case stemmed from the $65,000-plus bill charged by International Business Aviation Services Philippines, which Air Philippines, then controlled by plastics tycoon William Gatchalian, contracted in 1996 to find and hire an outfit in the United States to ferry a Boeing 737 to Subic Bay.

After the delivery, Air Philippines balked at paying the full amount, but eventually relented, releasing to the contractor a down payment of about $28,000, with the balance payable upon the submission of proper documentation.

In the meantime, "to avoid the corporate embarrassment of Air Philippines' intransigence," the contractor advanced the full payment to its US sub-contractor, and then sued Air Philippines in the Pasay Regional Trial Court for the balance.

To make a long story short, Air Philippines lost the case by default after its counsel failed to appear during pre-trial days and failed to even submit a pre-trial brief despite asking for several postponements.

In denying the appeal, the high court's First Division also rejected Air Philippines' petition for a new trial, saying that the airline had been "as negligent as its lawyer" despite the airline's claim that it already had replaced Manalo with a new in-house counsel.

"Petitioner (Air Philippines) was not deprived of its day in court," said *ponente* Justice Artemio Panganiban. "Actually, it never even complained against the manner in which its counsel had handled the case, until late in the day."

"For petitioner to feign and repeatedly insist upon a lack of awareness of the progress of an important litigation is to unmask a penchant for [the] ludicrous," Panganiban added. "Although it expects counsel to protect its interest, it cannot just sit back, relax or await the outcome of its case."

"Indeed, from lethargy is misfortune born."

Heard through the grapevine

MCDONALD'S closed down over the weekend its Save-A-Lot branch in Pasong Tamo, after being caught in between the protracted legal battle over lease rates between landlord Conrad Leviste and mall developer Ramon "RJ" Jacinto.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

OFW remittances jumped 14.5% in July to $734M

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS sent home by overseas workers jumped by a double-digit level for the second straight month in July as more Filipinos took offshore jobs and more banks expanded their remittance facilities.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that remittances from overseas Filipino workers rose by 14.5 percent to $734 million in July from a year ago.

This brought the seven-month remittances to $4.7 billion, up by 5 percent from the same period in 2003.

In June, OFW remittances likewise posted an increase of 19.4 percent, reversing a two-month contraction.

"The increase in the level of remittances for the month of July was partly a reflection of the growth in the total number of deployed Filipino workers overseas," BSP Officer-in-Charge Alberto Reyes said.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, he said the total number of deployed workers was up by 9.2 percent to 569,877 in July from a year ago.

"Countries such as Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates continued to be the major sources of these remittances," Reyes said.

He said the increase was brought by the employment of more production workers, professionals and service workers such as caretakers and caregivers, performing artists, managers and office personnel.

"Despite the growing competition from other labor-exporting countries, robust demand for Filipino workers is expected to continue because of their skills, easy trainability and high level of professionalism," Reyes said.

The BSP earlier doubled its projected annual growth in remittances from OFWs this year to 6 percent due to a combination of higher incomes and deployment. In nominal terms, the year's target amounted to $8.2 billion.

At first, it projected only a 3-percent expansion in OFW remittances, taking into account stiff competition from workers originating from other developing countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. However, the deployment of more workers and the more attractive peso-dollar exchange rate increased the flow of remittances.

Reyes also said the continuing efforts by local commercial banks to expand access to banks by Filipino workers abroad through the establishment of new remittance centers and increased tie-ups with financial institutions in host economies likewise facilitated easier money transfers.

Among the local banks which recently announced an expansion in their remittance business were Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Through the years, the Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. In 2003, OFW remittances pumped $7.64 billion into the domestic economy.

Globe, Smart insist . . .

From page B1

cept for the blocking of IMEI numbers of stolen phones, which we do immediately. Whether it is a watch or a cell phone, this is still the issue of criminality," said Castelo.

But unlike in the case of watches, the resale of stolen phones can still benefit two parties: the manufacturer and the network. A stolen mobile phone, when activated, is another cellular subscriber.

Rising profits

In the feverish race to sign up as many customers as they can, phone companies have been suspected of inertia, of letting things take their course. After all, "second-hand" phones do give poor Filipinos access to Smart and Globe. And both operators have repeatedly said that their objective is to attract more customers from the lower segment of the market.

A research study published by BNP Paribas Peregrine last May noted that falling cost of handsets as well as SIM (subscriber identification module) cards helped drive wireless profits up.

The study observed that "a burgeoning used handset market had help lower subscription entry cost," with some units going for as low as $30 or about P1,700.

Smart reported a net income of P11.6 billion and a subscriber base of 16.1 million in the first half of the year. Globe's numbers were P6.9 billion and 10.5 million subscribers in the same period.

(Sun Cellular of Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. is having a hard time catching up with the two. Its subscriber base of more than 700,000 hardly grew from last year, and losses are expected to peak this year.)

But Nazareno, who is also concurrent president of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the parent firm of Smart and Pilipino Telephone Corp., strongly denounced any insinuation that his company was, in effect, letting cellular phone theft proliferate.

"We have a moral obligation to this country and to our subscribers. We are responsible corporate citizens. We would not endanger the lives of our subscribers just to get new ones. This is not our style."

Globe's Castelo said that mobile phone theft was not even the problem of the regulator, but the NTC seemed to have made theft prevention its crusade.

NTC policies

All cellular phone dealers, retailers and repair shops nationwide have only until September 26 to register with the NTC. Those who fail to do so would be slapped a P5,000 fine.

Based on the NTC's estimates, there are between 10,000 and 15,000 mobile phone dealers and between 5,000 and 10,000 cellular phone repair shops in Metro Manila alone.

The NTC, through the issuance of two circulars effective August 25, has also prohibited the sale of blocked SIM cards and blocked mobile handsets. The circulars also required phone technicians to be properly trained and accredited.

Ronald Cruz, the proprietor of Ron's Cellphone Repair Training Center, said the NTC requirement was bad for business, since it stipulates that phone technicians must undergo training by groups accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. But no training center for cell phone repairs enjoy Tesda accreditation, Cruz said, because Tesda requires a three-month training course when mobile phone technicians need only two weeks to learn the ropes.

Quevedo also observed that shop registration only added more red tape. "While we commend the NTC for going out of its way to curb theft, the move would simply create another layer of administrative bureaucracy which would only breed corruption."

Quevedo also pointed out that cellular phone theft was not unique to the Philippines. In May, he said he lost his phone in Singapore, one of the safest cities in the world.

"In our case, we hear of instances when our police knows who the snatchers are but they don't do anything. We even hear of cases when it is the police who try to sell cellular phones. Obviously, the problem lies with law enforcement," he noted.

But NTC chair Ronald Solis is optimistic. He said the new policies, if enforced strictly, could kill the market for stolen mobile phones and put cellular phone thieves out of business.

Small oil firms . . .

From page B1

further monitoring of international price movements as well as of local market conditions would have to be done before a final decision on whether or not to implement an increase during the week would be made.

However, he did say that another oil price increase could be in the offing as world prices, particularly of diesel, had been on the rise since the bombing of the Australian Embassy in Indonesia last week.

The benchmark Dubai crude, on which local oil refiners base their product prices, had already gone down to a Sept. 1-13 average of $35.07 a barrel from $38.55 last month.

MOPS-based gasoline also went down to $48.11 a barrel for the first 13 days of the month from a high $51.50 in August.

But MOPS-based diesel continued to defy the downtrend, rising to a Sept. 1-13 average of $52.37 a barrel from $51.66 last month.

Lopez said new oil players like Flying V did not have a chance to recover accumulated losses from January to August that they incurred due to the extremely high prices of crude oil in the world market.

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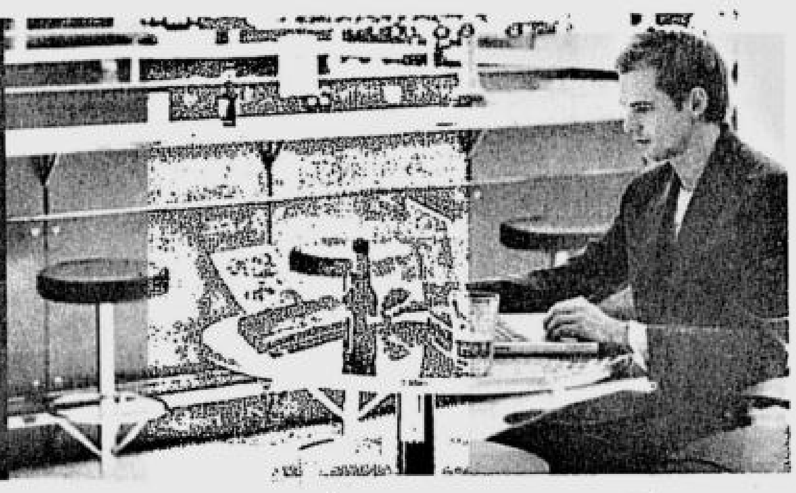

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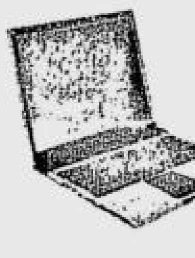

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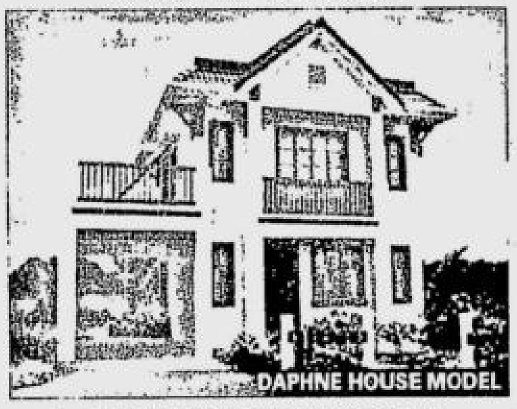

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Municipality of Murcia
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Republic of the Philippines

BID BULLETIN

DUE TO THE INCREASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION COST AND IN THE COST ESTIMATES OF THE BUILDING OF THE NEW MURCIA PUBLIC MARKET, MUNICIPALITY OF MURCIA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE CATEGORY OF CONTRACTORS AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF MURCIA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, WISHES TO EXTEND ITS APOLOGY TO ALL THOSE WHO SHOWED INTEREST BY SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY CHECK AND LETTER OF INTENT, SPECIALLY CONTRACTORS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS MEDIUM (B) BY THE PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION BOARD (PCAB).

THE MUNICIPALITY WILL BE ANNOUNCING AT A LATER DATE THE INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY UNDER THE NEW CATEGORY.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

By:
(Sgd.) INOCENTES S. CONTE
Chairman - BAC

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

14,500 Bacnotan Consolidated Industries, Inc. shares with Certificate No.34268 registered in the name of Maria Isabel G. Ongpin have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI- Sept.1,8,15, 2004)

2,400 Manila Electric Company shares with Certificate No. 73654 registered in the name of Elaine O. Herbosa and/or Maria Elena Sanchez ATF Ongpin Children have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI- Sept 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

RE: Closure of representative office of BALtrans Holdings Limited (the"Company") in Manila, Republic of Phils. Please be informed that the management has decided to close the Manila office of the Company. The decision was made to in line with the change of the company's strategy. Instead of maintaining a representative office in Manila, the Company decided to appoint a liaison agent in Manila to take over the role currently assumed by the representative office in Manila. - THE MANAGEMENT (PDI-Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

On the Occasion of
The 5th Death Anniversary of

TEODORO R. PADILLA

(August 24, 1927 – September 15, 1999)

Beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Friend and Exemplary Public Servant

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park at 6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM, and 6:00 PM.

His family asks the pious reader and those whose lives **"Justice Teddy"** touched, to join them in prayer and remembrance of this very special man.

Renato Constantino

March 10, 1919 - September 15, 1999

On the 5th anniversary of his death, his family remembers him with love and pride.

"From history we learn of the causes of our underdevelopment. We see the colonial condition as the main source of our economic backwardness. And this condition was not abolished with independence; it was merely transformed. We see the economic structure as the basis for the iniquitous political system in which economic privilege becomes the pillar of political power - a power that enhances colonial control and further entrenches the hold of the local elite over the people."

"Development in the Context of Philippine History"
February 28, 1976

JOSE LUIS "LOUIE" C. DEL MORAL

(August 19, 1935 – September 12, 2004)

HIS WIFE
Encarnita Abiera-Del Moral
CHILDREN
Pooh Del Moral-Tioseco
Ana Del Moral-Asis
SONS-IN-LAW
Larry Tioseco
Rolly Asis
GRANDCHILDREN
Belle Del Moral Tioseco
Theressa Del Moral Asis

request for your most gracious prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, 19th of September 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of our Beloved

DANTE T. BALMES

who passed away on September 15, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Parish of Immaculate Conception, Bauan, Batangas	5:30 a.m.
Basilica de San Martin Tour, Taal, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
St. Raphael Church, Calaca, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Manila	6:00 a.m.
St. Francis of Paola Parish, Mabini, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City	6:15 a.m.
Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Parish of St. Mary Euphrasia, Batangas City	7:00 a.m.
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 a.m.
Iglesia Filipinas Independiente, Batangas City	8:00 a.m.
Parish of San Sebastian, Lipa City, Batangas	8:00 a.m.
Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, San Marcelino, Manila	5:00 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Church, Batangas City	5:00 p.m.
San Pascual de Baylon Church, San Pascual, Batangas	5:00 p.m.
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	5:30 p.m.
Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang	6:30 p.m.
Parish of San Felipe Neri, Mandaluyong City	7:00 p.m.

His loving wife **Yoli**; children **Vanesa**, **Kristine**, **Angelo** and **Jonathan**; children-in-law **Dick**, **Dondon** and **Menchie**; grandchildren **Chino**, **Justin**, **Maru**, **Naia**, **Joshua** and **Regina**; and his sister **Linda**, request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Memory of our Papa

FELIPE SOLIVEN DONATO

He is lovingly remembered
on his 1st Death Anniversary today,
September 15, 2004
by his wife **Estelita**,
children, **Hilda**, **Ely**, **Lita**, **Rita**
and **Chit**,
children-in-law, grandchildren and
sisters **Hilda** and **Lourdes**.

Message of Thanks

To all those . . . .

- Who visited us and thought of us in our time of sorrow,
- Who prayed with us and for us,
- Who sent Mass cards, donations and messages of sympathy and condolences,
- Who gave us beautiful flowers to express compassion,
- Who joined us in our nightly vigils,
- Who attended the Masses and funeral rites,
- And who, in one way or another consoled our hearts,

Our Heartfelt Thanks & Appreciation.

From the family of

ANICIA (Necie) G. CANSECO

who joined the Lord on 28 August 2004

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CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads on Page A2, A27 & A28

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
Region XII
OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Annabelle Sunio Buenafor has filed with this office a petition to change of first name from Ma. Annabelle to Annabelle in the birth certificate of Ma. Annabelle Ortizo Sunio who was born on February 5, 1946 at Poblacion New Lucena Iloilo and whose parents are Aniceto Poblador Sunio and Gregona Ortizo.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than 17 September 2004.

(Sgd.) SUSAN GULANI-DUMAMA
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Sept. 8 & 15, 2004)

AUCTION

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ON: Thursday 16th September 2004 - 10:30 A.M. Sharp

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It prepares leaders to meet globalization head-on and dence.

With the objective of settin own full-time MBA program, W partnership with Harvard Bu Ford Foundation, and other aca leaders, founded the very first agement school in the country mission of making a differen growth of Asian societies by dev al, entrepreneurial, and social ers and managers, many of AIM positions in top companies and region.

The diversity of program product of its internationaliz sponse to globalization. A la

AIM president Roberto de Ocampo (center) and Dean the Institute Nieves Confesor received the certificate o accreditation from Dr. Milton Blood, managing directo of Accreditation Services of AACSB International in Montreal, Canada.

AIM's degree programs

INITIALLY, the Asian Institute of Management is solely de cated to enhancing its flagship program: the Masters Business Administration. But the institute saw the need keep up with the progressing business environment.

Now, it consists of four schools with five degree pr grams and several non-degree certificate courses. T oldest school is the Washington SyCip Graduate School Business (WSGSB), and the three other schools are Asi Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), Center for Develo ment Management (CDM), and Executive Education a Lifelong Learning Center (Excell).

The Master in Business Administration and Master Management are under WSGSB.

The Master in Business Administration offers thr majors: Finance, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship. T two-year program focuses on Asian leadership and ma agement practice in the global context. It prepares a trains managers to top-level jobs of chief executive o cers or chief operating officers.

In 1975, AIM introduced its Masters in Manageme (MM) program. MM is an intensive graduate manageme program on business leadership and strategic manageme which is geared for middle managers. Recently, it was designed by a team of faculty led by Prof. Eduardo Morato.

"MM aims to develop not only the functional skills b the person as a leader," said Morato. "We are looking how the head of an organization would integrate all the functional areas."

Professor Jacinto C. Gavino Jr., DPA, wants to stress mentoring of students by the faculty which is not offer in other MBA programs.

"In their reflection papers, the students express personal change that happened to them," Gavino sa "They are now looking at purpose or what do they wa to achieve in life."

The 11-month MM transforms managers into corp rate strategists and top level executives. This is mo holistic in approach and is also open to non-business pr fessionals who intend to take a different career path. It so hopes to produce more socially responsible manage

The Center for Development Management (CDM) w established in 1991 to train more competent professio managers. CDM specializes in the area of governance, en ronmental management, development finance, health, ec cation, the management of cities, and regional integratio

Under CDM is the Master in Development Mana ment program caters to executi [illegible] managers w are from the developing nations [illegible] ey apply learning of world-class professiona [illegible] nent skills the public sector. The program exposes students to re life cases, allowing tremendous opportunities to devel practitioner-oriented knowledge, tools, skills, and te niques in environmental analysis, organizational diagn sis, strategy formulation and evaluation, management functional areas, program and management.

In 1999, AIM established Asian Center for Entreprene ship (ACE), an 18-month course specially des [illegible] ned small and medium entrepreneurs. This is AIM's re [illegible] onse the significant number of SMEs which is becoming lifeblood of the economy. It aims at making enterpr more productive, professional, and profitable, and helps velop not only the business but the entrepreneur also.

In 2001, Asiaweek rated AIM's Executive MBA (EMBA) No. 1 in Asia. EMBA is under the Executive Education a Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL). The participants beco lifelong learners whose leadership and managerial capab ties strengthen Asian corporations in the global economy.

Here, the program involves the student, the organi tion or company, and AIM. While the student who is s by his or her company to the school attends the progra he or she is also tasked to act as a consultant to the co pany for certain business problems. Each approach is c tomized to each company. After the program, the stud is expected to emerge with a clearer perspective and hanced skills set for dealing effectively with personal a organizational challenges.

AIM continues to innovate and live up to its goal of p moting international understanding and setting regi wide standards for excellence as evidenced by its 19 Ramon Magsaysay Award. The multinational charac encourages deep understanding of the cross-cultural sues in the region.

To get to know more about AIM and its progra there will be an open house on Sept. 21. For more info mation call 894-0043 or visit www.aim.edu.ph.

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BUILDING TEAMS ■ BUILDING LEADERS
September 15 ■ September 16

MEGA LEARNING EVENT 1
High Impact Teams Seminar
Acquiring the 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player
Opening Session by Francis Kong
Araneta Coliseum • Sept 15, 2004 • Wednesday
Ticket Prices at P400; P600; *P750; *P950; *P1,750; P2,250 and P2,750
*limited/sold-out seats
New Sections Opened at the back (South Gate): P150; P200; P250

4:00 pm Gates Open / Books for sale at discounted prices
6:00 Opening Ceremonies *Emcee: Anthony Pangilinan*
6:10 Opening Session by Francis Kong
6:30 Welcome Remarks by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, President & CEO, Philippine Daily Inquirer
Introduction by Ardy Roberto, CEO, Salt & Light Ventures
6:40 Session 1 & 2: Developing the Qualities of a Teamplayer
Dr. John Maxwell
7:40 Break
8:00 Testimony by Chot Reyes, Head Coach of the Coca Cola Tigers
8:10 Session 3: Developing a Winning Attitude
Session 4: Creating Your Roadmap for Success
Dr. John Maxwell
9:30 End

MEGA LEARNING EVENT 2
THE JOHN MAXWELL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
LIVING AND LEARNING THE 21 IRREFUTABLE LAWS OF LEADERSHIP
PICC
September 16, 2004
(Thursday)
Ticket Prices at *P3,200 ; P3,500 ; *P5,700 ; P7,300 ; P8,000 ; P9,000 ; P10,000 ; P11,000 ; P12,000 ; *P14,000
*limited/sold-out seats
Fees include lunch, snacks and whole day seminar.

7:00 am Gates Open / Registration / Books for sale at discounted prices
8:30 Opening Ceremonies *Emcee: Anthony Pangilinan*
8:40 Welcome Remarks by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, President & CEO, Philippine Daily Inquirer
Introduction by Ardy Roberto, CEO, Salt & Light Ventures
9:00 Morning Session: The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership
Dr. John Maxwell
10:30 Break
11:00 The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership (continuation)
Dr. John Maxwell
12:00 Lunch
1:30 pm Afternoon Session: Thinking for a Change
Dr. John Maxwell
3:00 Break
3:30 Today Matters
5:00 End

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PHILIPS
TOWN Official Printer
Fitness First Official Wellness Partner
The Westin Philippine Plaza Official Hotel Residence
Mefenamic Acid Ponstan 250 SF
BusinessWorld
BCD-PINPOINT Business Works
Call Center Powered by Pilipinas TeleservInc
Rapp Collins Creative Agency
Allcard
Smart Gold Simply The Gold Life
Gateway
Spring Official Direct Mail Solutions Provider
vipertechnologiesinc. Website Developer
The Blue Mountains
Supporting Organizations:
AIM Alumni
FOCIG
Philippine Society for Training and Development
Word of Hope
For the benefit of Salt & Light
Produced and organized by SALT & LIGHT VENTURES

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rld-class leaders

By Marlet D. Salazar

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its students and graduates come from different parts of Asia.

World-class

According to Roberto de Ocampo, president of AIM, one of the reasons of its continuing internationalization is to strengthen the brand. To do this they address the needs of the market particularly in the region.

AIM is not only confined within the country as it started to promote its programs outside within Asia. There are programs in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and it recently established a training program in Shanghai, China.

"We want to take advantage of our brand recognition to make sure that we would be able to be competitive," De Ocampo said.

AIM recently received two accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) with its European Quality Improvement (Equis) and from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International).

Because the business climate in Asia has improved and experienced a huge change in the past years, premier business schools in Australia, Europe, and the United States saw the potential market and decided to bring them here.

"We continue to take steps to enhance the curriculum, and get the best of the real-world faculty who themselves are experienced executives and senior managers," he said.

Ricardo Lim, associate dean of the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business believes that they are more challenged by the competition than discouraged.

"We are in a very competitive arena," Lim said.

AIM is known to be a tough school and there are three things that distinguish them from the schools that followed its lead. He cites rigor, grounding of faculty, and interaction of students.

"We are considered to be one of the most difficult business schools bar none," heLim likens the training of degree students to "blades." He said rigor makes them sharp because above all the good lessons they get, they also have to experience them or go back to what they are doing. Learn from the theories and apply their learning to their work and/or businesses.

"They come out of here like a samurai sword," he said.

AIM takes their faculty to the real world. Most of the teachers at AIM have 25 or more years of teaching experience. The multi-cultural community of AIM attests to its commitment in giving world-class education.

"When we teach, it is always healthy skepticism," said Lim who has been teaching at AIM for 13 years.

The students enjoy a healthy discussion with themselves and with the teachers. The case method works effectively with AIM students. In this method the professor is supposed to stay on the sidelines while the students argue or discuss. The learning is not so much on hearing what the other guy has to say.

According to Lim it is when you say things that the thoughts gets processed.

"This school brings out what is tacit ad makes it explicit," Lim said. "It is a term of knowledge management."

"I hear it up there!"

"No! It came from over there!"

Surround Sound

Find out how the latest Dolby Digital surround EX system can produce sound so clear, so real, it will fully envelop your senses!

"It's right here beside us!"

"Guys! It's all around."

Shangri-La Plaza

SHANG CINEPLEX

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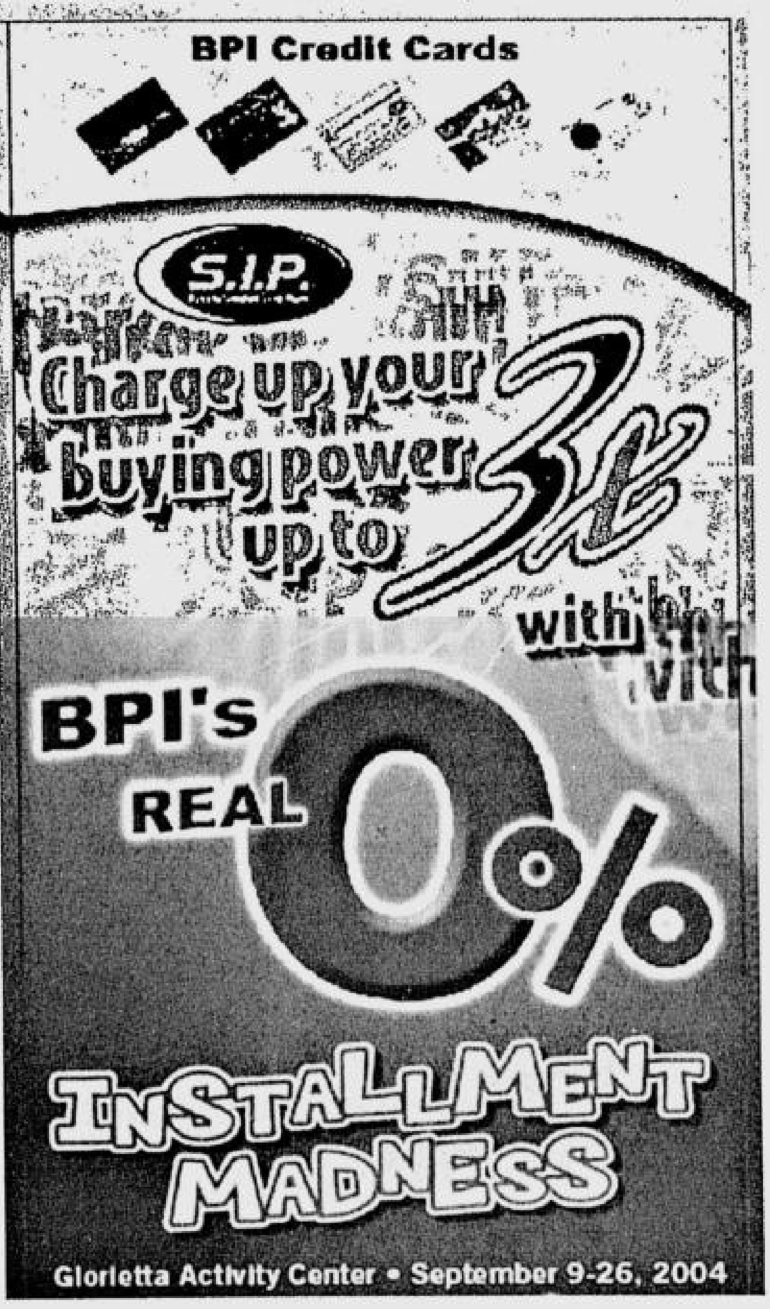
BPI CREDIT CARDS:

The leader in installment financing offers 'Real 0%'

LG
Whirlpool


BPI Credit Cards
S.I.P.
Charge up your buying power up to 3x with
BPI's REAL 0%
INSTALLMENT MADNESS
Glorietta Activity Center • September 9-26, 2004

BPI Card, the leader in installment financing, is presenting its latest appliance fair dubbed "Real 0% Installment Madness" from Sept. 9 to 26 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City.

It will be remembered that BPI Card launched the first Appliance Madness in Glorietta in 1994. The event attracted a huge following over the years as BPI Card delivered on its promise of the best top-of-the-line appliances and the best deals.

The Real 0% Installment Madness offers the same highly-anticipated deals for BPI credit cardholders using their BPI Express Credit or BPI Classic/Gold/Petron MasterCard or BPI Edge. Aside from appliances, the Real 0% Installment Madness also carries other product categories such as jewelry, mobile phones and computers.

BPI credit cardholders can maximize their savings and charge up their buying power at the Madness. Through BPI's exclusive Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.), cardholders get real 0 percent with no hidden charges. They can also enjoy more spending when their card's limit can go up to as much as three times its regular credit limit. Plus, participating cardholders are also qualified to join the "Mad About 'Emall!!!" raffle promo. They also get the chance to win either a scooter, digital camera, a portable DVD player with 7" LCD monitor.

With the BPI Credit Card, easy payment schemes, discounts and perks make shopping a pleasure. Using any of the three fully-charged-for-value BPI Credit Cards (BPI Express Credit and/or BPI Classic/Gold/Petron MasterCard and/or BPI Edge) allows cardholders the unique advantage of enjoying the most innovative and special credit card features around.

Only the BPI Credit Cards carry two credit lines in one credit card: the regular credit line and the S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan).

The S.I.P. is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that lets cardholders purchase high-ticket items on installment. The S.I.P. lets cardholders enjoy big discounts with low interest rates from a choice of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or up to 24-month terms.

When BPI credit cardholders use their BPI credit card, they do not have to worry about being charged for hidden fees on their purchases. They are not surcharged for what they buy, whether at the Madness or on regular purchase.

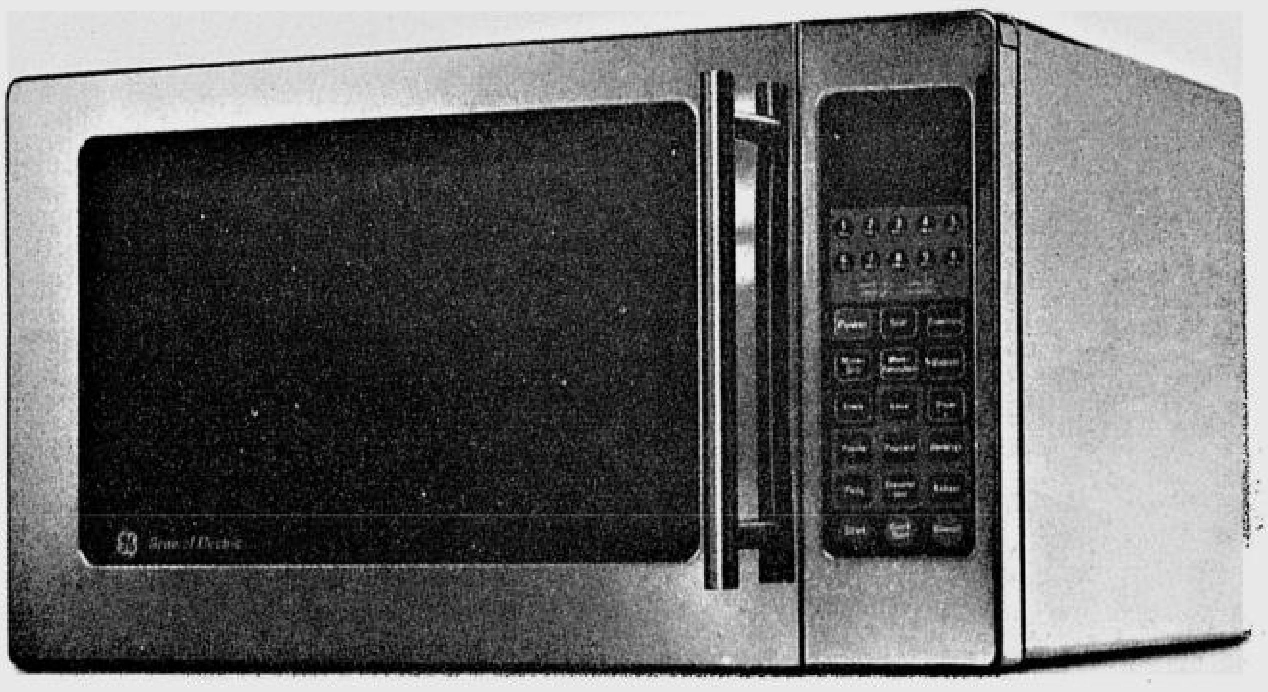
And unlike other credit cards, the BPI Credit Cards compute the interest on purchases only on the statement date, and not on the posting date. This gives BPI credit cardholders the lowest finance computation in the industry.

The participating appliance manufacturers at the Madness are Ariston, American Home, CCAC & CASC, Electrolux, Fedders, GE, Hyundai, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, TCL, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

Bringing in the furniture, home accessories and others are Ambiance One, Blims, Casio, Home Options, HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins), Naomi Jewelry, Sportshouse and Tefal.

Computers, cellphones and gizmos come from Accent Micro, Canon & Kodak, Columbia Global sales, Compex, Electroworld, Fujifilm YKL, Manila Imperial Motor Sales, Nokia, Silicon Valley, TCA and Villman.

The participating dealers are Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Center, Sogo, Waltermart, and Western Marketing.



FOR THIS STAINLESS STEEL MICROWAVE OVEN, BAKING IS A PIECE OF CAKE.

Go beyond reheating with the new GE microwave oven. Cased inside and out with stylish and durable stainless steel, this beauty lets you broil, roast, grill, or even bake your favorite dishes at the push of its auto-cook button. Get even more added convenience with its multi-stage cooking function which allows to shift from microwave to convection heat almost at will. All this from the 1.1 cubic foot largest capacity microwave oven from GE. Never before has something so cool been so hot.

GE Appliances
geappliances-philippines.com

GE imagination at work

JE1632PCWW
JE1635PDWW
.6 cuft
rotary control
JE1643PCWW
JE1645PDWW
.6 cuft
electronic control
JE1872PCWW
JE1875PDWW
.8 cuft
electronic control, grill and combination cooking
JE1884PESS
.8 cuft
electronic control, stainless, with grill and combination cooking
JE1188PGSS
1.1 cuft largest capacity, electronic control, stainless, with grill, combination and multi-stage cooking

CALL NOW (02) 631-8282 Shangri-La, (02) 633-9953 Megamall, (02) 687-1566 Cybermall-Eastwood, (02) 815-8875 MC Home Depot-Fort Bonifacio, (02) 887-0075 Glorietta 4

Official Distributor CYA Industries Incorporated

Not all features available on all models. Photos may vary from actual units. Available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

BPI presents Real 0% Madness

FROM Sept. 9 to 26, BPI Credit Cards is holding its Real 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Once again, BPI credit cardholders of BPI Express Credit or BPI Classic/Gold/Petron MasterCard or BPI Edge can look forward to great offers such as the real 0 percent with no hidden charges. They can also enjoy more spending when their card's limit can go up to as much as three times its regular credit limit. Plus, participating cardholders are also qualified to join the "Mad About 'Emall!!!" raffle promo. They also get the chance to win either a scooter, digital camera, a portable DVD player with 7" LCD monitor.

The BPI credit card is the only one of its kind to have two separate credit lines. The first credit line is for everyday purchases at the grocery, gas station or drugstore. The second line is called S.I.P. or Special Installment Plan. The S.I.P. can be used to purchase high-ticket items such as appliances and furniture, and ideal for appliance fairs such as this edition's S.I.P. Installment Madness.

The participating appliance manufacturers are Ariston, American Home, CCAC & CASC, Electrolux, Fedders, GE, Hyundai, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, TCL, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

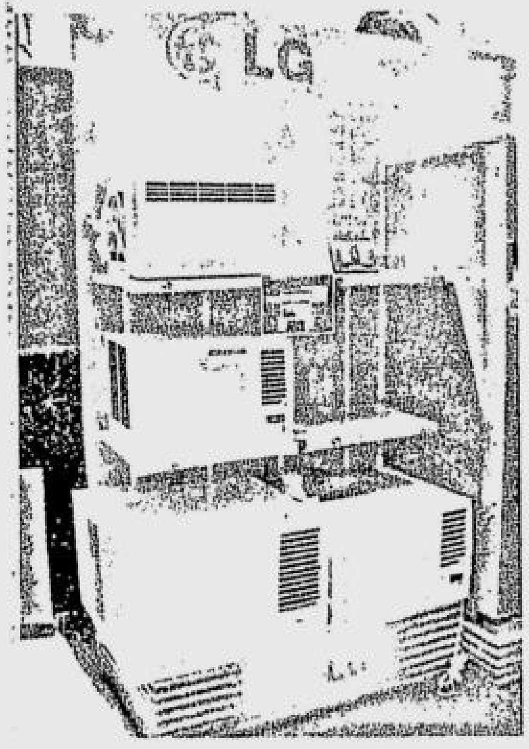
Furniture and other participants are Ambiance One, Blims, Casio, Home Options, HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins), Naomi Jewelry, Sportshouse and Tefal.

Computers, cellphones and gizmos come from Accent Micro, Canon & Kodak, Columbia Global sales, Compex, Electroworld, Fujifilm YKL, Manila Imperial Motor Sales, Nokia, Silicon Valley, TCA and Villman.

The participating dealers are Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Center, Sogo, Waltermart, and Western Marketing.

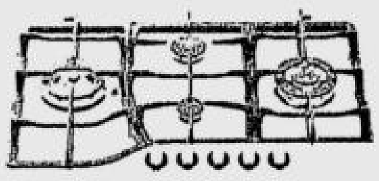
BPI INTRODUCES THE BPI EXPRESS LEARNING CENTER

BPI continues its tradition of leadership as it introduces the BPI Express Learning Center (ELC), the first of its kind in the banking industry. The concept behind the ELC is to teach existing, new and potential clients how to use BPI's electronic banking channels. These channels offer customers the convenience of anytime anywhere banking and allows them to do a wide array of banking transactions from their home or office. Clients who come to the ELC can learn online banking in one easy session and they can also be tutored in phonebanking. The ELC is situated in a mall hence it is very accessible to both office workers and students alike. The first ELC is right beside the Convenience Banking Center in Park Square 1 at Ayala Center, Makati City. Shown in photo during the inauguration of the first Express Learning Center in Park Square 1 are (from left): BPI vice-president Josephine Ocampo, Ayala Land manager CJ Jesena and BPI senior vice-president Lourdes Claravall.



Kodak
Kodak

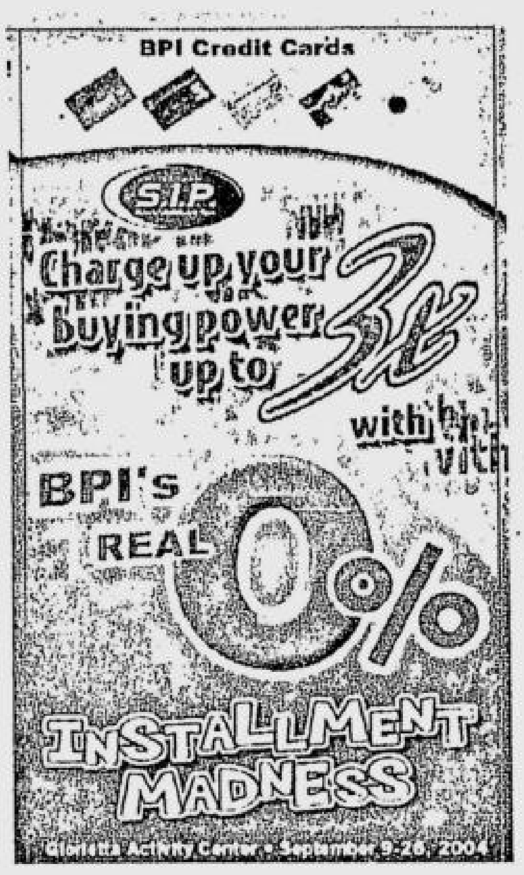
Scratch-resistant stainless steel



ARISTON now introduces the latest stainless steel built-in cooktop with the exclusive anti-scratch feature: PH 750 RT AX GH

IF SCRATCHES on stainless steel are your pet peeve, here's the appliance you have been waiting for: Ariston now introduces the latest stainless steel built-in cooktop (PH 750 RT AX GH) with the exclusive anti-scratch feature. Although scratches are hard to avoid due to constant use, this cooktop's unique textured stainless finish makes it resistant to 'everyday' scratches otherwise common in ordinary stainless. This 75 cm hob (which is able to fit in a 60 cm cavity) also has various advanced cooking features such as the dual regulation burners that give you hi-power and flexible cooking options and a powerful triple ring burner. The flame failure gas cut-off system helps keep your family and home safe each day. With its one hand electronic ignition plus the cast iron pan support, PH 750 RT AX GH certainly combines convenience and durability that is best for the tasteful and discerning homeowner. The anti-scratch cook top model is also available in 60 cm.

See the new anti-scratch cooktop only from Ariston at its showrooms: 4th Level of Glorietta 4 (inside Home Buddies with tel. 887-0075), 5th level SM Megamall Building B (633-9953); 4th Level Shangri-La Plaza mall (631-8282), MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (815-8875) and Cybermall in Eastwood City Libis (687-1566). Ariston appliances are also available at all leading appliance stores.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Charge up your buying power up to 3x
with
BPI's REAL 0%
INSTALLMENT MADNESS
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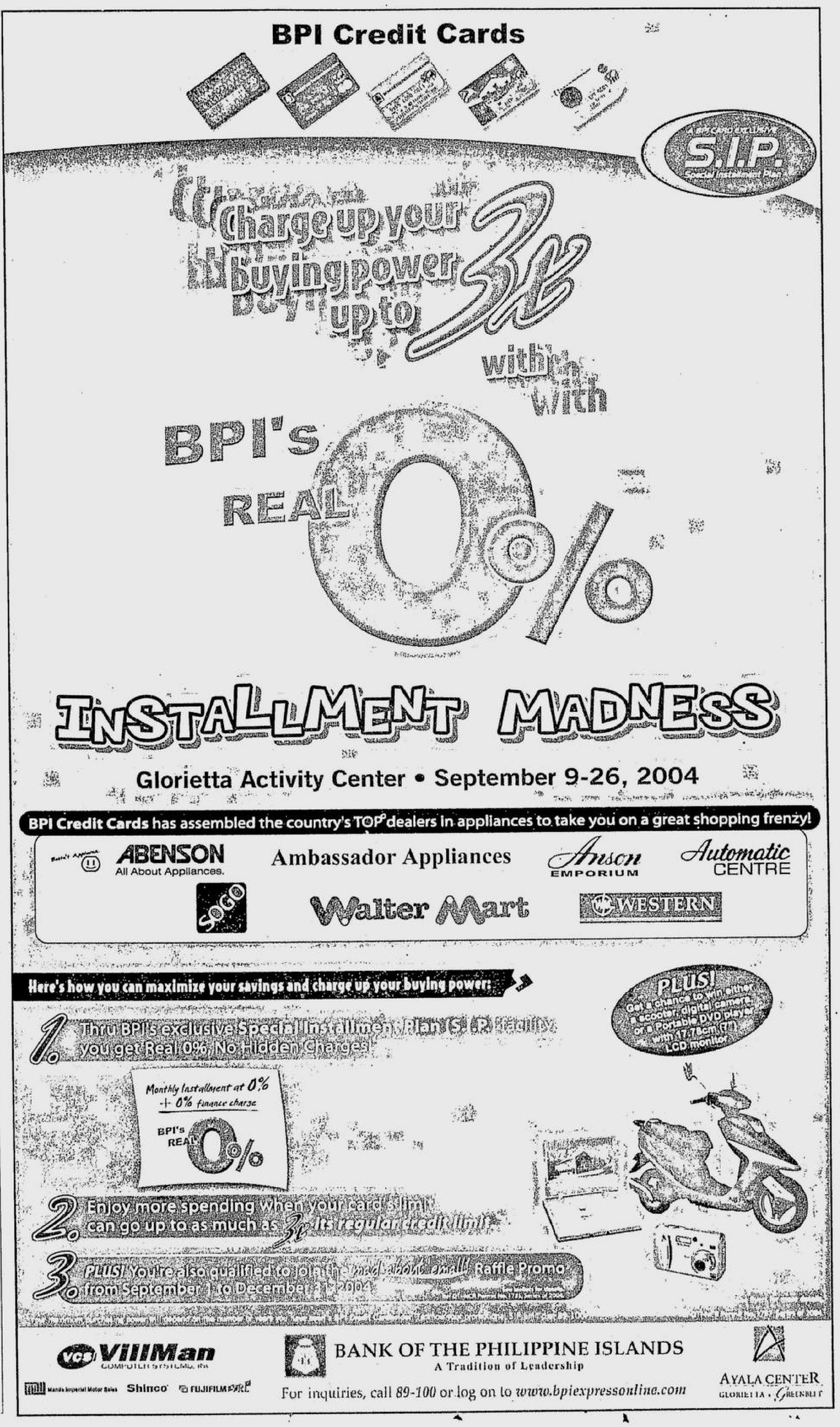

Glorietta Activity Center • September 9-26, 2004

BPI Credit Cards has assembled the country's TOP dealers in appliances to take you on a great shopping frenzy!

ABENSON All About Appliances.
Ambassador Appliances
Anson Emporium
Automatic Centre
SOGO
Walter Mart
WESTERN

Here's how you can maximize your savings and charge up your buying power:

1. Thru BPI's exclusive Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.) facility, you get Real 0%, No Hidden Charges!

Monthly Installment at 0%
+ 0% finance charge
BPI's REAL 0%

2. Enjoy more spending when your card's limit can go up to as much as 3x its regular credit limit!

3. PLUS! You're also qualified to join the mad about emall! Raffle Promo from September 1 to December [illegible], 2004

PLUS! Get a chance to win either a scooter, digital camera, or a Portable DVD player with 17.78cm (7") LCD monitor

VillMan Computer Systems, Inc.
Manila Imperial Motor Sales
Shinco
FUJIFILM

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AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

BPI Cards' latest Madness is on

PEOPLE who want to get more value for their hard-earned money should check out BPI Credit Cards' ongoing Real 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Sept. 9 to 26.

BPI credit cardholders of BPI Express Credit or BPI Classic/Gold/Petron MasterCard or BPI Edge can load up on great offers such as the real 0 percent interest; cash price equals card price for all appliances; and a whole lot more.

The BPI credit card is the only card to have two separate credit lines. The first credit line is for everyday purchases at the grocery, gas station or drugstore. The second line is called S.I.P. or Special Installment Plan. The S.I.P. can be used to purchase high-ticket items such as appliances and furniture, and ideal for appliance fairs such as this edition's S.I.P. Installment Madness.

BPI credit cardholders must remember to get their special promo S.I.P. for the Installment Madness. Qualified cardholders can avail of up to three times their regular limit during the Madness at the Glorietta.

The participating appliance manufacturers are Ariston, American Home, CCAC & CASC, Electrolux, Fedders, GE, Hyundai, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, TCL, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

Bringing in the furniture, home accessories and others are Ambiance One, Blims, Casio, Home Options, HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins), Naomi Jewelry, Sportshouse and Tefal.

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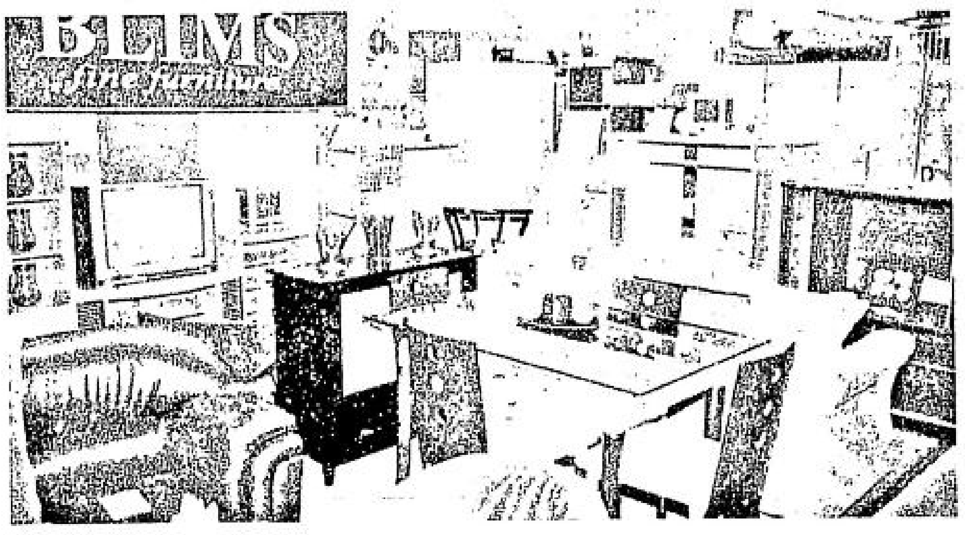
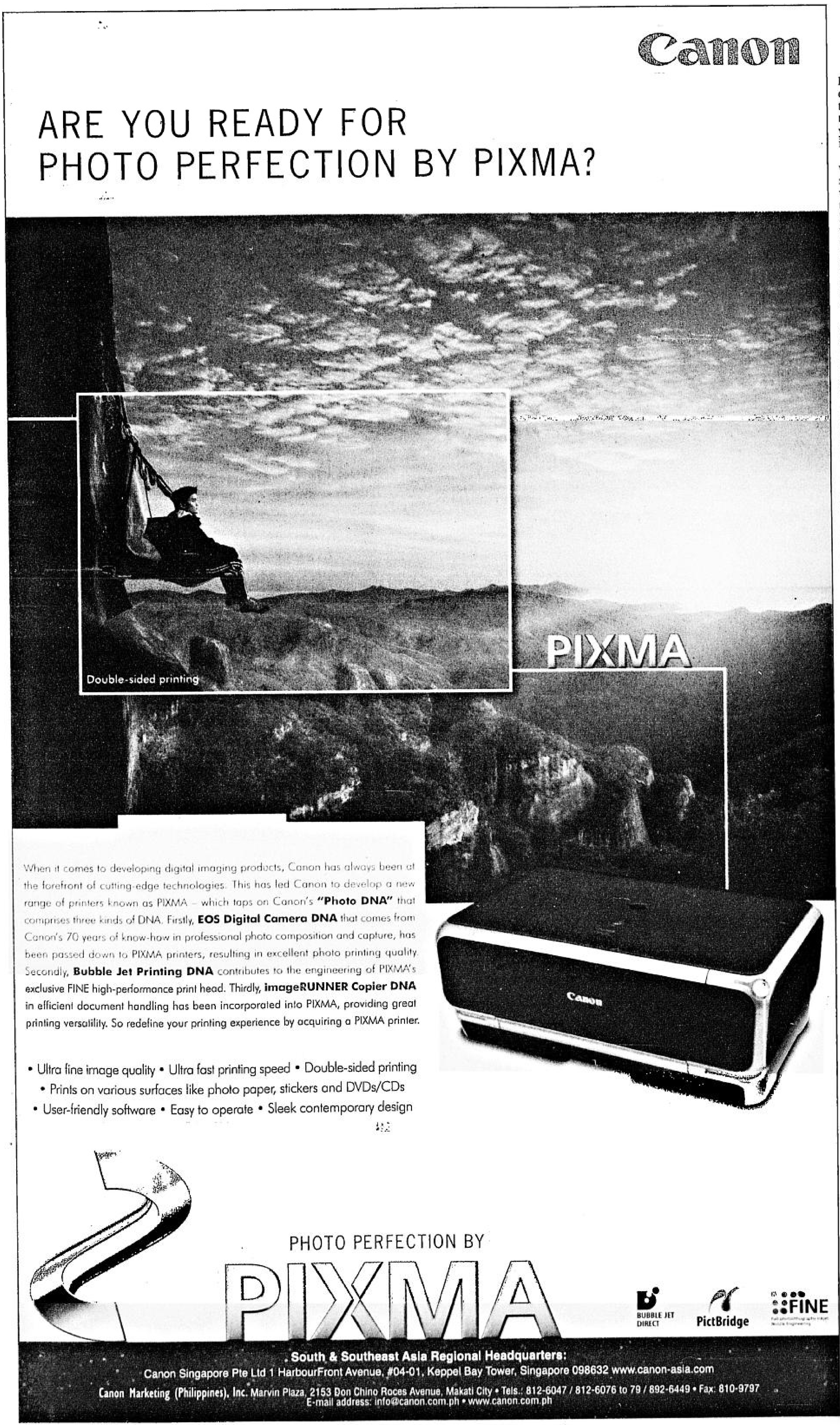


BPI Credit Cards
S.I.P.
Charge up your buying power up to 3x
with
BPI's REAL 0%
INSTALLMENT MADNESS



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When it comes to developing digital imaging products, Canon has always been at the forefront of cutting-edge technologies. This has led Canon to develop a new range of printers known as PIXMA – which taps on Canon's **"Photo DNA"** that comprises three kinds of DNA. Firstly, **EOS Digital Camera DNA** that comes from Canon's 70 years of know-how in professional photo composition and capture, has been passed down to PIXMA printers, resulting in excellent photo printing quality. Secondly, **Bubble Jet Printing DNA** contributes to the engineering of PIXMA's exclusive FINE high-performance print head. Thirdly, **imageRUNNER Copier DNA** in efficient document handling has been incorporated into PIXMA, providing great printing versatility. So redefine your printing experience by acquiring a PIXMA printer.

• Ultra fine image quality • Ultra fast printing speed • Double-sided printing
• Prints on various surfaces like photo paper, stickers and DVDs/CDs
• User-friendly software • Easy to operate • Sleek contemporary design

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E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

The perfect home for your wines

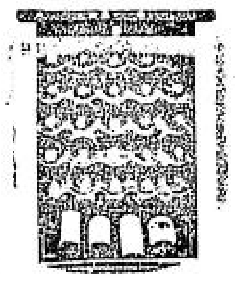
LOUISVILLE, KY - From Champagne to Bordeaux, the new GE Profile™ Wine Chiller offers the perfect home for your wines. Store and maintain in optimum temperatures up to 29 bottles of your favorite wines in this attractive free-standing wine cellar.

Match your impeccable taste in wines with a wine chiller that meets all of your needs. Designed to perfectly store, keep, and present your wines, this chiller is also simple to control. Easy to use electronic touch controls allow you to select the ideal temperature for your red and white wines with the touch of a finger. The temperature displays on a digital readout programmable in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade. Simply touching the Interior Light control will illuminate the interior cabinet. And don't forget to keep your distinctive inventory safe. The unit comes equipped with a lock and key.

The wine chiller also includes an array of quality features including a bowed triple glass door offering a clear view of the entire inventory while five sturdy chrome shelves give solid support to 25 bottles of your favorite reds or whites. A lower area offers vertical storage for larger bottles, such as sparkling wines or champagnes.

The Profile Wine Chiller (model PWR04FAN) is available in two colors: Black with Stainless Wrap (BS) or Black with Black Wrap (BB).

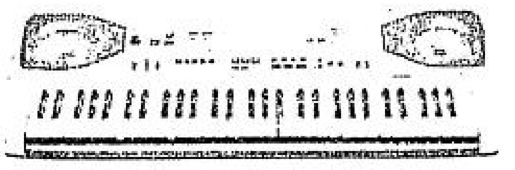
For more of GE products visit its main showrooms on the 5th level of Megamall Building B with Tel. 633-9953 and on the Cinema Level of Glorietta 4 with Tel. 887-0075. GE Appliances also has showrooms in MC Home Dept (tel. 815-8875), Cybermall in Eastwood City (Tel 687-1566) and Shangri-La Mall (Tel. 631-8282). GE Appliances are available at all leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor is CYA Industries with main plant and service center at 109 Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City with Regional Offices in Davao (082) 222-1181; Cebu (032)344-6925 and Cagayan de Oro (088)856-4727.



STORE and maintain in optimum temperatures up to 29 bottles of your favorite wines in this attractive GE Profile Wine Chiller.

Play and sing, enjoy on TV

YES, you read it right! With the new Casio LK 90 TV, you can play your favorite song, belt out a tune, and see everything on TV!



TV Connectivity

Enjoy learning to play along with your friends or the entire family, as it displays the Advanced3-Step Lesson System on the TV screen. You can also see the lyrics of Sing Along tunes and scores with its unique TV support video systems: PAL (LK-90TV-P), NTSC (LK-90TV-N)

Sing Along

In addition to built-in (Song Bank/Sing Along) tunes, you can also play and sing along with SMF and SMF Lyrics data obtained using the Song Expansion systems. The lyrics of built-in (Song Bank/Sing Along) tunes and SMF Lyrics tunes can be displayed on a TV screen (English and other Roman alphabet based languages). It also comes with a plug-in microphone-feature, so you can just plug your microphone and sing galore

Advanced 3-Step Lesson System

Easy-to-follow Key Lighting teaches you how to play!

Your play is evaluated and a score is assigned for each of the steps of the 3-Step Lesson.

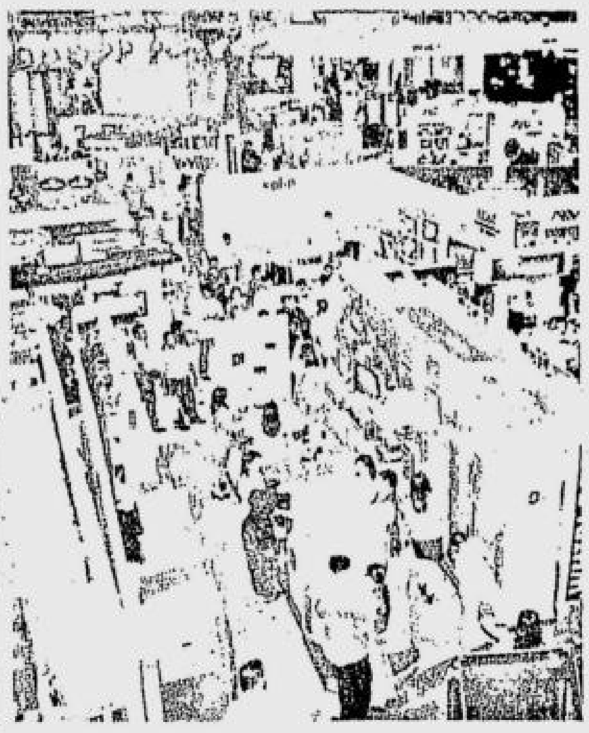
Connection to a TV makes evaluation score results easier to understand, and inspires you to do better. It also lets you enjoy learning with your friends and family, making practice more fun for everyone!

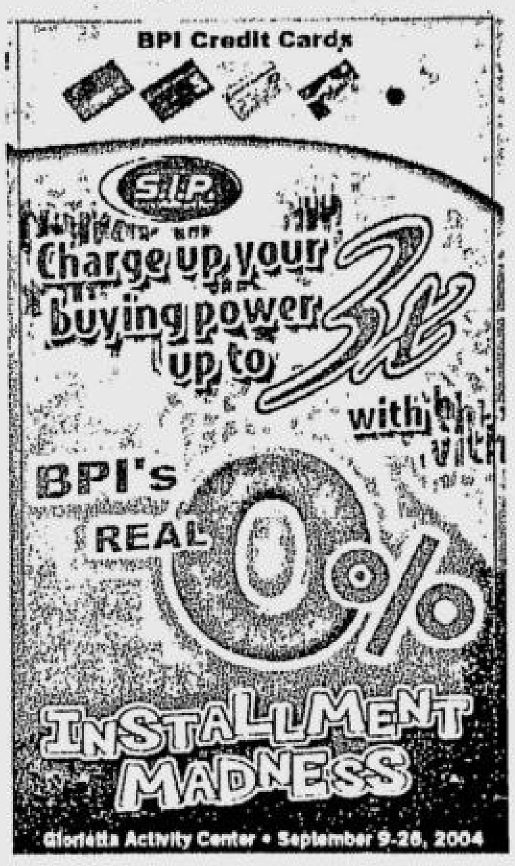
Smart Media Card Slot

You can also expand and enjoy the keyboard lesson and sing along using SMF and SMF lyrics stores in your Smart Media Card. You can create, store and enjoy more music.

33rd BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS - September 9-26

AMERICAN HOME
ARISTON
CASC-CII
CCAC (CONCEPCION - CARRIER)
FEDDERS
GENERAL ELECTRIC
HYUNDAI ELECTRONICS (ALDIS)
JVC
KOLIN
LG ELECTRONICS
PANASONIC
PHILIPS
PIONEER
SHARP
WHIRLPOOL
WHITE WESTINGHOUSE / ELECTROLUX
AMBASADOR HOME ELECTRONICS
TCL SUN INC




BPI Credit Cards
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Charge up your buying power up to 3x
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INSTALLMENT MADNESS
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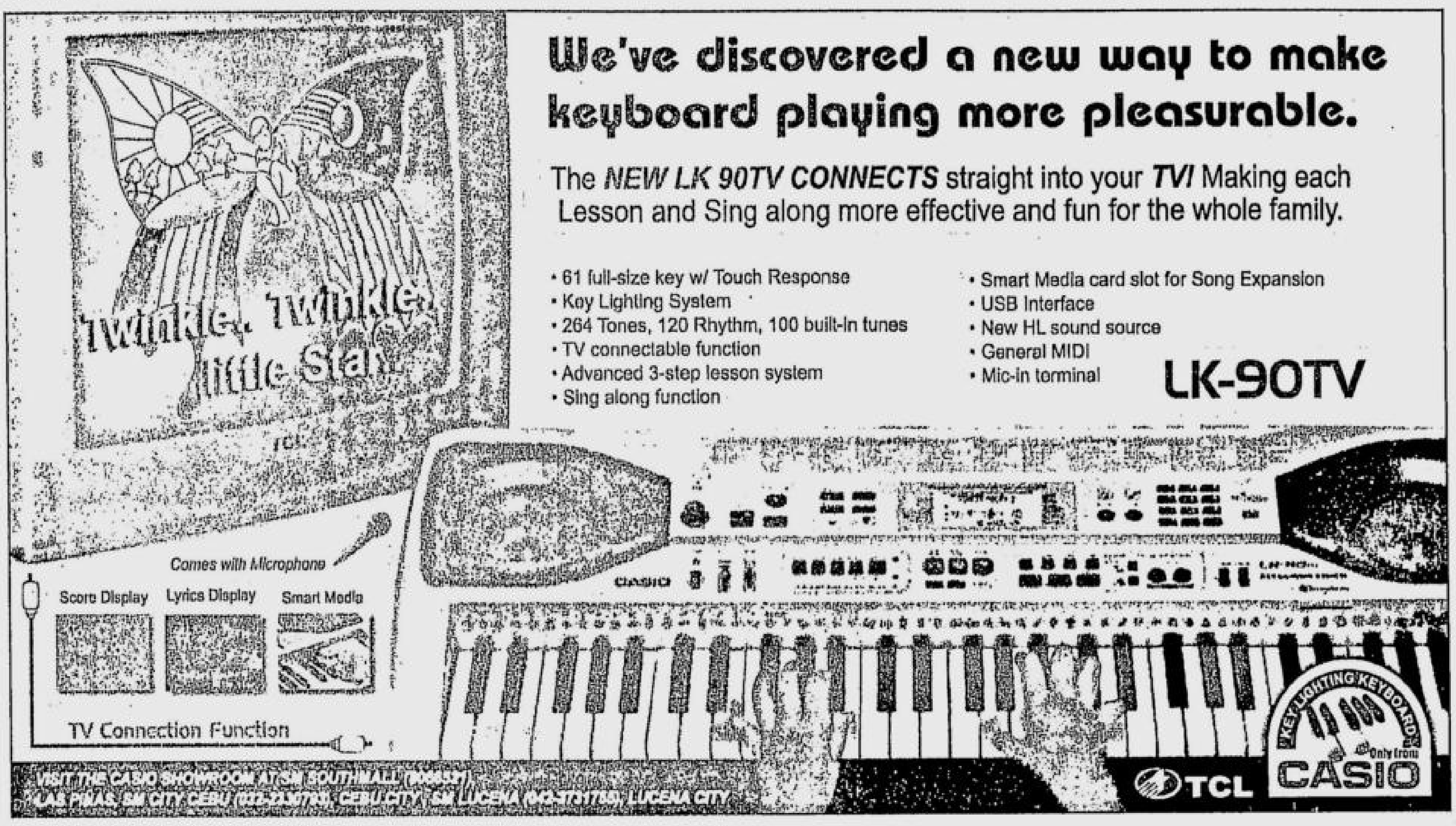
Only BPI Credit Cards carry two credit lines in one credit card: the regular credit line and the SIP (Special Installment Plan) Line. The SIP is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that lets cardholders purchase high ticket items on different installment terms to make them more affordable and within reach


Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star
TCL
Comes with Microphone
Score Display
Lyrics Display
Smart Media
TV Connection Function
CASIO
KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
Only from
CASIO
TCL

We've discovered a new way to make keyboard playing more pleasurable.

The *NEW LK 90TV CONNECTS* straight into your *TV!* Making each Lesson and Sing along more effective and fun for the whole family.

- 61 full-size key w/ Touch Response
- Key Lighting System
- 264 Tones, 120 Rhythm, 100 built-in tunes
- TV connectable function
- Advanced 3-step lesson system
- Sing along function
- Smart Media card slot for Song Expansion
- USB Interface
- New HL sound source
- General MIDI
- Mic-in terminal

LK-90TV

VISIT THE CASIO SHOWROOM AT SM SOUTHMALL ([illegible]), LAS PIÑAS, SM CITY CEBU ([illegible]), CEBU CITY, SM LUCENA ([illegible]), LUCENA CITY

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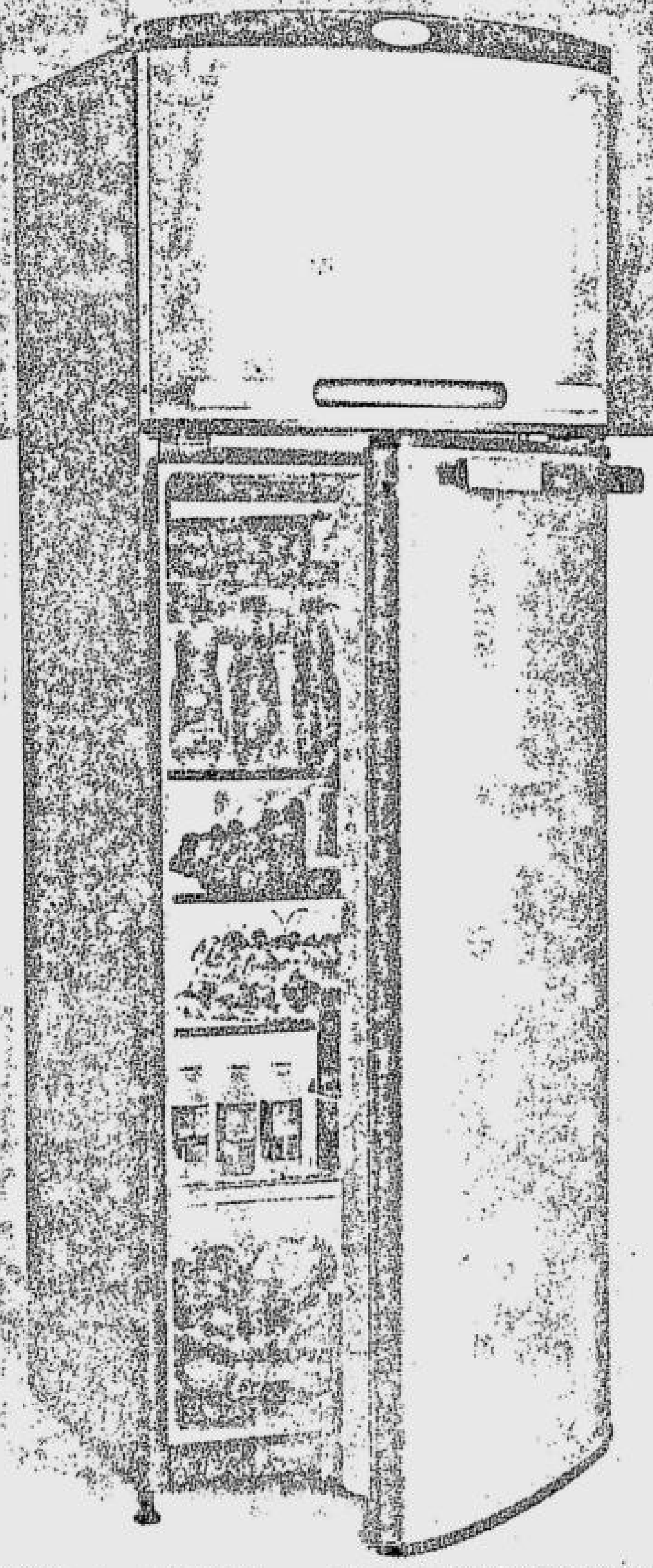
Now cooling... in 360 degrees



The new Whirlpool Rhapsody No Frost refrigerator. A sleek blend of beauty and function. Makes cooling easy with its 360 degree surround cool system that provides even cooling in all the refrigerator compartments, even food stored at the door shelves. It also has a built-in deodorizer that prevents food odors from mixing with each other, plus a humidity controlled crisper that maintains food freshness.

The new Rhapsody refrigerator with 360 degree surround cool, all around cooling... all around your refrigerator.

Truly a work of art like no other.

WBM 10Q Stainless Finish
10 cu.ft., No Frost

Also available:
WBM 08Q - 8 cu.ft., No Frost
WBM 11Q - 11 cu.ft., No Frost
**available in Almond and Stainless Finish colors*

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You and Whirlpool.
The world's best homemakers.

BPI Credit Card:

Charge up your buying power up to 3 times

BPI CREDIT CARDS is holding its 33rd REAL 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati from Sept. 9 to 26

BPI Credit Cards continue to attract a strong and potent market due to its ever-growing popularity. The Real 0% Installment Madness offers the same highly-anticipated deals for BPI credit cardholders using the BPI Express Credit Classic (Burgundy), BPI Blue, Gold, Petron and Edge Mastercard.

Only BPI Credit Cards carry two credit lines in one credit card: the regular credit line and the SIP (Special Installment Plan) Line. The SIP is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that lets cardholders purchase high ticket items on different installment terms to make them more affordable and within reach.

Having a separate line for installment purchases allows BPI to offer Real 0% to its credit cardholders. Thus, cardholders do not have to worry about being charged for hidden fees on their purchases. They are not surcharged for what they buy.

And unlike other credit cards, the BPI Credit Cards compute the interest on purchases only on the statement date and not on the posting date. This gives BPI credit cardholders the lowest finance computation in the industry.

What's exciting this 33rd Installment Madness is that BPI credit cardholders get the best Real 0% deals absolutely no hidden charges.

> Cardholders do not have to worry about being charged for hidden fees on their purchases

They can also maximize their savings and charge up their buying power up to 3 times their regular credit limit.. Plus, with a minimum of purchase of P3,000, cardholders will get a instant prize and get a chance to win either a scooter, digital camera or a portable DVD player with 7" LCD monitor.

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Bringing in the furniture and other home furnishing are Ambiance One, Blims, Casio, Home Options, HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins).

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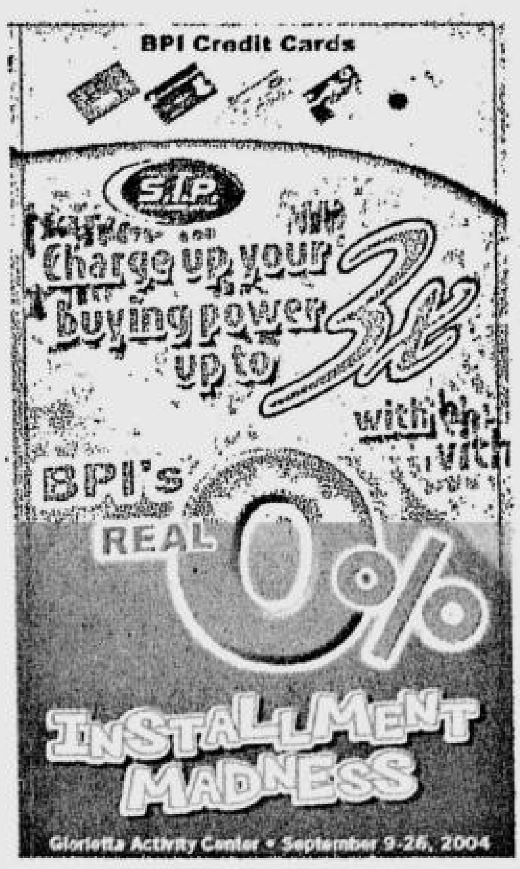
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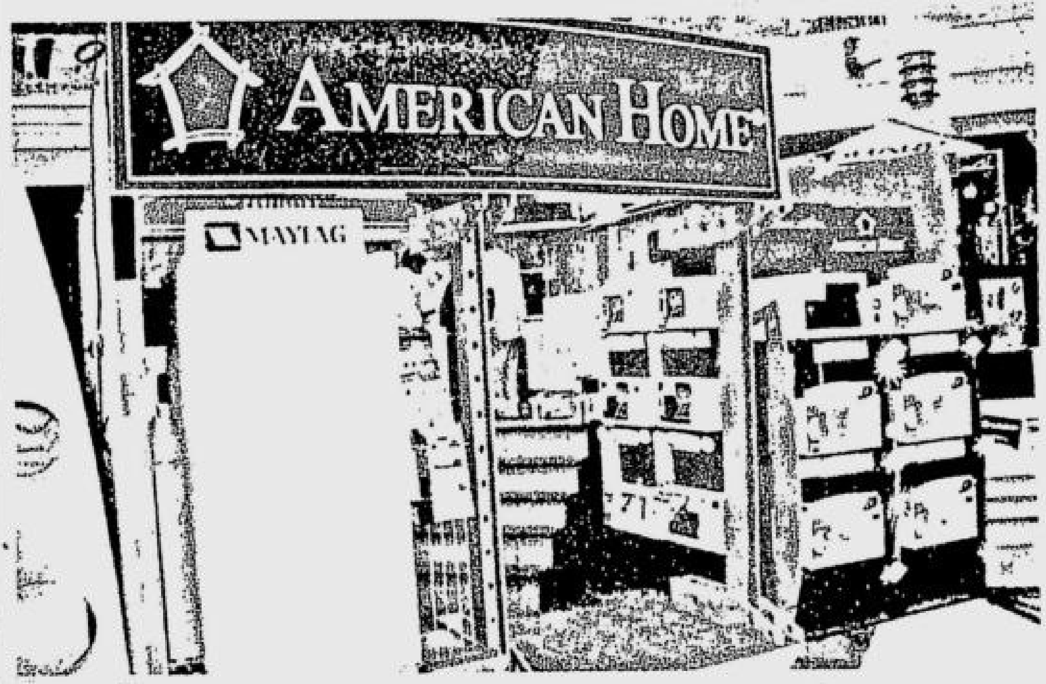

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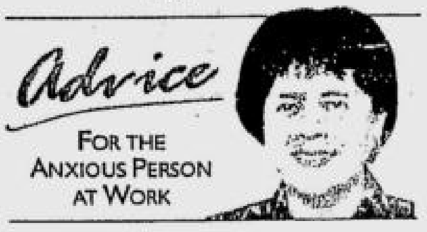
'I am being retrenched!'

By Tita Datu Puangco


Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM REQUESTING for your advice or opinion on my possible separation from my current company. We are on the second wave of our retrenchment program. In our group, we have been advised, if possible, to reduce by seven employees. The company had no clear criteria at the start on who and how many to retrench. But recently, as discussed with our general manager, the criteria for retrenchment are the cost, the number of employees in the group, and the ability of people to go multi-tasking.

I am the department manager of one of the three departments that shall be merged to form only two departments. I am handling Human Resources, Administration and MIS. I am the most senior, highest paid and, therefore, qualified for the early retirement, among the three department managers.

Our general manager, without much adieu, pinpointed me as one of the "retrenchables" but made it appear to the president that I am volunteering for the retrenchment. Of course, the new president approved it at once, without reviewing further the details of my existence in the company and relying fully on the endorsement of our GM.

Our GM talked to me recently, and so as not to make it appear a painful exit, I must file an application for an early retirement to effect resignation. This will also be implemented for all other candidates for retrenchment. According to them, this is a win-win situation, such that the employee will be benefited with 100 percent of his monthly pay for each year of service. However, they will still report this to the Department of Labor and Employment as retrenchment.

What am I supposed to do considering that my position is actively functional? Aside from this, what benefit can I ask for a company under also our mother company, where I am appointed as director and at the same time a signatory for check payments? I know that since the appointment and investment is only in paper, I was not able to clear beforehand the benefits I am entitled to as director and signatory, considering the accountability and responsibility. What can I do?

Reluctant Early Retiree

You have been pinpointed for retrenchment and it looks like you are struggling with the idea. I understand from your letter that you are passively resisting it. This is normal. William Bridges talks about life transitions as this one as a "wilderness" experience, where you get into unknown territory.

What steps can you take so you can move forward? First, get a clean sheet of paper and write down everything that you will lose when you retire. If you don't confront the losses, you will forever be in limbo. Then, take one loss at a time and ask yourself, "What is the worst thing that can happen to me with this loss?" Then, reflect if in fact the worst things are likely to happen to you. Most often, 80 percent of what you fear has no basis in reality.

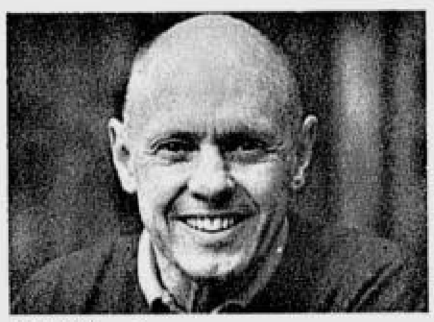
Then, write down what you think are the best things that can happen to you with this retirement. Reflect on possible options open to you when you retire. Many people continue to have peak career experiences after retirement in a new part-time or full-time job. Or they go into business creating their own jobs. Some others decide, if the need for earning money is not very intense, to engage in social or volunteer work that challenges their talents and capabilities.

Then, write five small steps to get you started towards the direction you desire. You must recognize that you will go through endings where you will experience a sense of loss. The feelings in this state are demotivation, betrayal, mistrust and the sense of being negatively evaluated. Then, you go through a neutral zone, where you want to move forward but sadness and nostalgia keep you looking backward. Give yourself time to grieve, then, move on to have greater control and confidence in the new beginnings.

Then, as a final note, have a conversation with your GM, clarify the retirement benefits you will get from both your current job and your job as director of another firm. Express yourself with respect but with candor. All the best. God bless you.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Stephen Covey goes beyond seven habits


COVEY

THE BOOK, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Dr. Stephen Covey was a groundbreaker when it was first published in 1990, and it continues to be a business best seller with more than 15 million copies in 37 languages sold worldwide. Executives, public leaders, managers and private individuals have been touched by the life-changing principles behind Dr. Covey's book.

In November, Stephen R. Covey's much-awaited follow up to this long-time best seller will be launched. Entitled "The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness," the fourth major work by Dr. Covey, comes at a time when the complexity we face in our personal lives, in our families, in our professions and in our organizations are most challenging. We are struggling to feel engaged, fulfilled and passionate across all areas of our lives.

Tapping into the higher reaches of human genius and motivation—to find what Stephen R. Covey calls our voice-requires a new mindset, a new skill set, a new tool set, a new habit. The eighth habit is the path to finding that voice and one's passion.

"I've not felt such passion, such conviction or excitement since my work on the 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,'" shares Covey. "I believe the reason the response to the new ideas in 'The 8th Habit' has been so strong is that people feel a void in their lives. This same emptiness is felt in organizations across the world ... there is a profound yearning in both people and organizations to find their true 'voice' to matter, to make a difference, to find greatness."

Dr. Covey is the founder of the former Covey Leadership Center and co-chairman of Franklin Covey Co. He has made teaching principle-centered living and principle-centered leadership his life's work. He holds an MBA from Harvard and a doctorate from Brigham Young University, where he was a professor of organizational behavior and business management and also served as director of university relations and assistant to the president. For more than 30 years, he has taught millions of individuals, families, and leaders in business, education, and government the transforming power of principles or natural laws that govern human and organizational effectiveness. Time magazine named Dr. Covey one of America's 25 most influential persons.

No stranger to the Philippines, Dr. Covey was in Manila in 1990 and 1994. The Center for Leadership and Change Inc. is bringing Dr. Covey to Manila for the third time this Nov. 19. He will conduct two sessions: a morning session on the "Soul of Execution: Building High Performing Organizations," at the Makati Shangri-La and an afternoon session on the "8th Habit: Live and Work with Passion" at Dusit Nikko Hotel.

The Center for Leadership and Change Inc. (CLCI) is the authorized distributor of FranklinCovey products and services in the Philippines. FranklinCovey Co., a global professional services firm offering learning and performance solutions, was brought about by the synergistic merger between Covey Leadership Center and Franklin Quest Co. CLCI's mission is to inspire and empower individuals and organizations to achieve what matters most through principle-centered living.

For individual, group reservations and sponsorships, call 817-2726, 840-0879, 426-6489.

Refocusing remaining employees after a transition

LAYOFFS can cause significant upheaval within an organization, prompting even the most valued employees who remain employed to be uncertain about their future. While there's a measure of relief in continued employment, a host of other emotions, such as uncertainty, skepticism, and distrust, can dampen morale and slow the organization's momentum toward key objectives.

According to Drake Beam Morin (DBM) Phils., a global company providing outplacement and career management solutions, while many executives overseeing a downsizing provide career transition services for those leaving the organization, many also neglect to deal with the serious issues among those who remain. To stay on course toward objectives, management must have its finger firmly on the pulse of the workforce before, during, and after a downsizing.

First things first

Perhaps the most serious consequence of not having a clear "reading" of the workforce after a downsizing is, ironically, additional downsizing—but this time through unexpected and unwanted loss of talent. The employees who remain may wonder if additional reductions are planned and if their own jobs are at risk. They may also be angry about the loss of colleagues and friends. If management tries to move forward without addressing these kinds of issues, many of the people the organization hoped to retain may start looking for other opportunities.

The first step toward retaining key talent after a downsizing is to gain a clear understanding of the issues that most concern remaining employees. This must be done quickly. An employer just has one to three months to address employee dissatisfaction after a downsizing. If an organization waits until financial conditions improve, for example, it may be too late to save the very employees needed to move the organization forward.

DBM offers its Retained Employees Study as one way that organizations can identify these issues. DBM consultants interview employees to identify the issues they are grappling with after a downsizing. Experience has shown that this objective and confidential third-party approach is more likely to yield honest reactions and feelings than internal interviews or surveys. Once the interviews are completed, DBM specialists analyze the results to identify targeted strategies for addressing the employees' concerns, boosting morale, and strengthening loyalty to the organization.

The key to successful retention after a downsizing is immediate action. Too many senior executives breathe a collective sigh of relief after the painful workforce reductions have been completed. But the layoffs are just the first part of a successful restructuring.

The second critical step is to implement the appropriate interventions that will make the remaining employees want to stay. And that can't be done without first understanding and addressing the factors that may cause them to leave.

INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (third from left) and Land Bank of the Philippines president Gary Teves (extreme right) cut the ribbon at the opening of the recently-concluded two-day learning event, "Business Skills for Everyone." Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) People at Work editor Regina Reyes, Ancilla president Lot Ortiz Luiz, Ancilla chair Tita Datu Puangco, (at the back) Inquirer SVP Marketing Rene Reinoso, resource person and chair of St. Luke's Hospital Robert Kuan, and Land Bank VP for Facilities Conrado Roxas (partly hidden). ERIK ARAZAS

Best-selling author shares leadership laws with country's leaders

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

MAXWELL

WITH OVER 30 books to his name and a following of thousands across the globe, John C. Maxwell is not easy to get hold of. But, as he waited to board a plane from his home base in Atlanta to Malaysia, People at Work was given a few minutes of his precious time. Over the phone, John Maxwell shared some insights on leadership.

Best known as the author of the New York Times best selling book, "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership," Maxwell built his reputation on his expertise on leadership. With a philosophy that "everything rises and falls on leadership," he has made it his life's work to help individuals attain their greatest potential not only in business but in their personal lives as well.

Best sellers

Although he has traveled all over the world to share his expertise, Maxwell wanted to reach more people and he has accomplished this with his books, which has sold over seven million copies. He explains, "I wanted to be able to add value to people I don't see. I realize that the only way to increase my influence was through books and the reason why I know that is because I have (and I'm sure you have too) read books from people that I'll never meet but what they said on paper really affected me." He cites "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie and "As a Man Thinketh" by James Allen as two of his favorite books that influenced his life.

Maxwell shares that his books were written based on his belief that people who succeed do four things very well. He says, "(Successful people) relate well with people, they equip and train people well, they have an attitude that's very positive and they're good leaders." He hopes to share these essentials to the Philippines, when he comes over on the 15th and 16th of September for a two-day seminar.

Beyond boundaries

He believes that leadership laws transcend cultural boundaries. "The reason why I call them the leadership laws is because they work regardless of culture, gender or age. Like the law of gravity. It works everywhere," says Maxwell.

Aside from culture, Maxwell also believes that the laws of leadership transcend time. He believes that ten, fifty, or even a hundred years from now, people will still adhere to the same laws and principles. "The leadership laws don't change. They worked a hundred years ago, they will work a hundred years from now," he says.

Maxwell hopes to change the common misconceptions of leadership. "The first thing in a leadership culture we have to understand is the fact that you want to have a leadership team. It's more than just one person leading. I think that the grave mistake is a lot of people feel that you have one leader and the rest are followers." He claims that a rising trend right now in the corporate culture is the change from a one-man leadership to team leadership.

Building teams

In dedicating his life to helping people, Maxwell has learned one important thing. "I discovered that if I could help them (people) learn to lead, then the success that they will possess begins to be compounded because now they don't have to do it themselves but they can engage others to do it with them and you can only compound your success when you teach other people."

Maxwell will teach the Filipinos how to build teams today at the Araneta Coliseum. Based on Maxwell's best seller, "The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team," participants will be taught how to be effective team members. Tomorrow, Maxwell will bring out the leader in everyone at the PICC with The John Maxwell Leadership Summit.

Memories for your love bank

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

"HOW DO YOU manage?" people like to ask me when they learn I live alone, and have twin boys and a little girl. I shrug and answer: Lots of support from my family, faith, and the willingness to get lost in my children, when time is kind to me. Because really, if there's one thing working moms need and want most, it's time. Time to finish the never ending to-do list on our desks, time to prolong a vacation, and time to freeze, like Nicholson Baker does in "The Fermata," those precious, precious moments with our children.

I have nine-month twin boys, and a seven-year old girl. It's a riot and a handful when I'm with them at the same time—but when I have one-on-ones with them, the experience is something else; it's almost meditative. Each word they say, each nuance and touch, is etched on my mind. They're my gold bullions in my personal "love bank," a term I picked up from Working Mom columnist and family counselor Maribel Dionisio. It's where we extract strength and good memories from, when our emotional reserves our low. During the building of those memories for my love bank, cameras and videos sometimes don't do justice, so I support them in words.

Here's several minutes sans camera with one twin, Mateo, on a late May eve.

Curve of cheek
On curious head
Wide of eye
His lashes toward the sky
White arms
His fingers curled
As he struggles to the edge of this world,
This bed,
Pink of sheet
Now lies beneath
His victorious back
That with a whirl
His body comes unfurled
And he stares at me
And talks to me
With the bow of his lip
And a silent grunt.
He tries to comprehend,
His hands round my arm,
His eyes watch my pen dance,
Entranced.
I am creating words, *anak*.
On paper
And as I speak.

And as I see your tiny nostrils flare
I do not dare
Stop.
As I may miss
The fleeting beauty of each twist
Of your perfect head
Each clasp
Of your seashell fingers.
"Mommy, are you finished,"
I know you ask,
As the pen pauses.
No baby,
I'm just taking a break
To look at you
To marvel at you
To smile at you
To hear you
And to feel your feet
Against my hip.
You touch my lips
And you snort a little
And you turn away,
And turn back.
And everything you do
Is magnificent.
You are Magnificence.
You are my Mateo.

(*Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. For more about extracting the most out of life, family, and career, get the September issue of Working Mom, with Marjorie Barretto on the cover. Feedback is welcome at* gina_llanes-@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

PEOPLE at WORK
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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you manage your time?

DEAR WW: I just got a serious shot fired across my bow. I had a heart attack. My doc says scale back, but I only know how to work 12-hour days.

Staying Alive

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

I recently came across an organization called the Association of Dead People. You might not think that dead people need to organize, but in India they do because there is a growing incidence of family members declaring a relative dead and then stealing his property. The government is little help: officials often refuse to believe the person isn't dead-even when he's standing right in front of them.

Well, those bureaucrats may be little help to "grieving" relatives, but they've got a lot to teach you especially if you want to avoid becoming an honorary member of the Association. Do what they do: less! The tips below will help you start taking control of your attitude and your schedule. Check out Stephanie Wilson's book, "Getting Out From Under" (Perseus, 1999).

Delegation

Do you assign everything with equal priority? If you're a workaholic, chances are you're also a perfectionist and that is a stress-inducing, time-consuming habit. Well, here's a radical—but vital—idea. Everything doesn't have to be done equally well. Some tasks require 100 percent effort, but others require only 50 percent. And—good grief! some may even require zero percent! Take a hard look at your to-do list and divide it into three groups: 100, 50 and 0. Then, spend your time accordingly. Yup, it'll feel awful at first. But do it for two weeks and I bet NO ONE notices any difference in the quality of your output. Think of it this way: spending less time on some tasks gives you more time for the really important stuff.

Do you avoid sharing and delegating responsibilities? Sure, no one can do the job as well as you can. But remember: that's the attitude that landed you in the ICU. It's time to share the workload. And not just for your sake, but for theirs. Employees want meaningful assignments: it makes them feel valued and committed to their jobs. Plus, meaningful assignments enable workers to learn and grow.

Priorities

Do you have a hard time saying no? It's one thing to be a team player; it's another to do other people's jobs. Before agreeing to an assignment, make sure it really belongs on your desk. Save your time and energy for your priorities, and let other people take care of their own.

Do you have a fear of being judged inadequate? Not to get too touchy-feely about it, but most workaholics and perfectionists fear (deep down) that if they stop being Superman or Wonder Woman for even a minute, their whole house of cards will come tumbling down. It isn't true—but we have a hard time believing otherwise. Get a healthier perspective by seeing a therapist who can help you examine that feeling.

Follow these tips, or your relatives will be divvying up the furniture and you won't need help from the government.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which time management technique is the hardest for you to do?

—Just say no, 20.4 percent
—Delegate, 31.1 percent
—Prioritize, 48.4 percent

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

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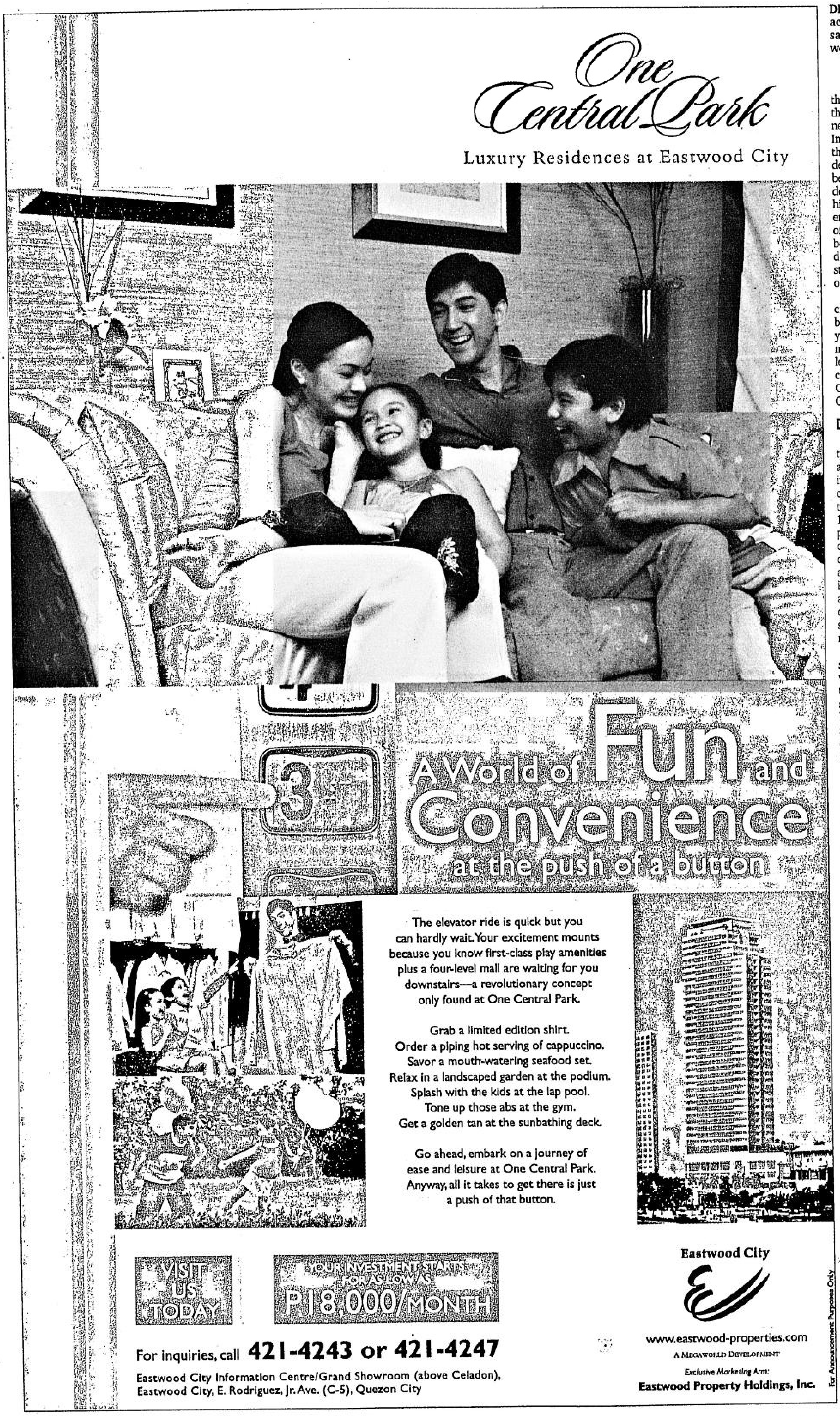
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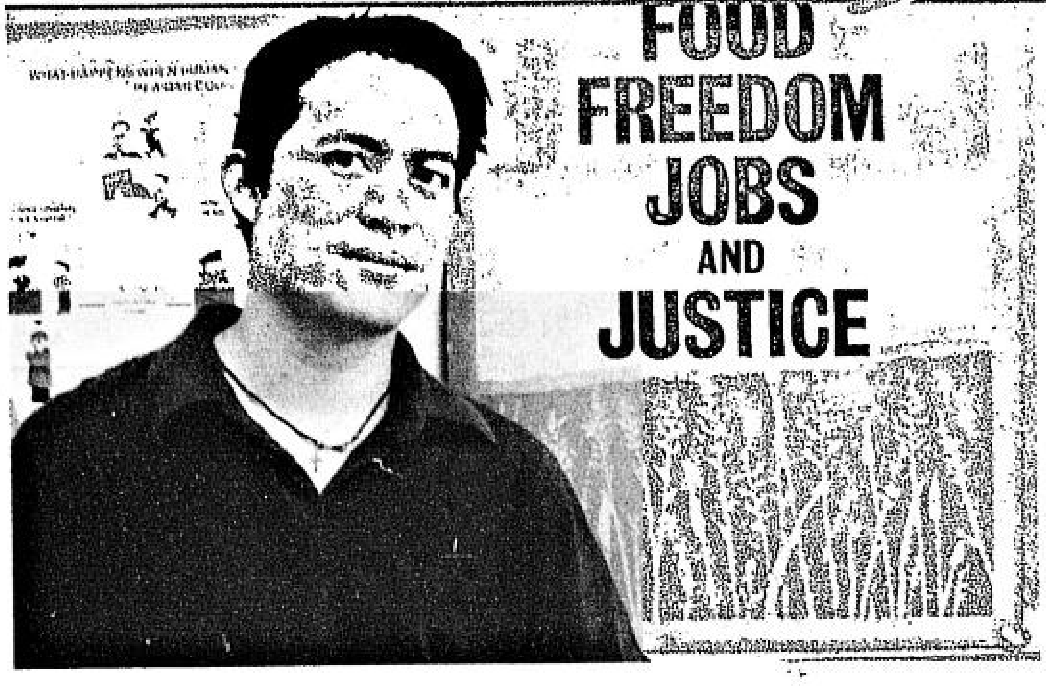
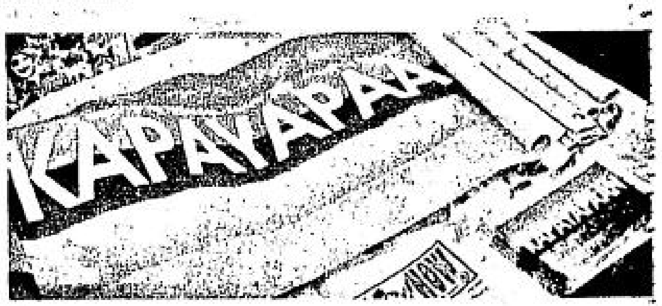
War is not the answer

Fred Lubang of the GZOPeace Institute is at the forefront of a campaign to bring reconciliation and harmony to the world's most troubled spots



"IT'S important to instill the spirit of peace in young people," says Fred Lubang.



LIPOVITAN
Energy Drink for Women

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

FRED Lubang has a mission. Today, it's some last-minute filing and organizing before flying to Ottawa for a symposium with other international groups tomorrow.

A stack of colorful tarps occupy a small table at the corner of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute's conference room, where Lubang is leafing through sheets of paper. Posters with messages screaming "No to War" and "No to Landmines" cover white-washed walls. Laminated blown-up photos of colorful murals drawn by school children from all over the country are prominently displayed in the conference room, all inspired by one theme: "Peace."

Lubang is the program director for the GZO Peace Institute, an institute committed to building a Filipino society that abhors war and destruction. Formed in the early '90s, the Peace Institute's programs include giving peace talks to communities, organizing fund raisers, and coming up with campaigns on peace-related issues, like the proliferation of small arms and humanitarian concerns.

In short, the organization believes that war is not the answer. For them, "national security is defined not in terms of national defense capabilities, but rather in terms of the protection and security of human rights, and the welfare of its people and of the environment."

Getting their voices heard

Lubang's desire to be a peace advocate started in his college days at the University of the Philippines, where he did research on the progress of peace talks between the MILF and the government. His interest in anti-landmine campaigns led him to join GZO.

"It was scary at first," he says. "In 1998 I went to the Abubakar Camp, and it was my first engagement with the leadership of the MILF, *para lang maintindihan nila na hindi* humane *yung paggagamit ng* land mines." Apparently, that was the time the military was conducting several bombings, and snipers surrounded the area.

"I could hear the bombs going off, and the MILF didn't want to accompany me outside the place because it was dangerous for them. So I had to walk all the way back by myself. I was so relieved as soon as I reached the nearest town, where there were a lot of people."

Lubang's work for GZO has brought him to places like Kabul and Bosnia, where he engaged in peace talks with the rebels and the government. "You get used to it after you've done it a couple of times," he says.

So why do people like him risk their lives by going into conflicted areas? Simple: to get their voices heard. And surprisingly, the government is listening.

Last month, the President passed an executive order designating September as a "Peace Month." GZO jumped at the opportunity to get its message out, getting together various NGOs to come up with a series of activities to generate awareness about different peace issues.

Thus, film screenings, poster-making contests and exhibits are slated to take place within the month, in various places in the country.

But what Lubang is focused on right now is the campaign to ban land mines. In fact, the symposium he's attending in Ottowa is about the UN Treaty with Nairobi and its ban on land mines. He's hoping the UN would reach the same accord with other countries.

"It's a humanitarian aspect. Even in war

WAR/ C2

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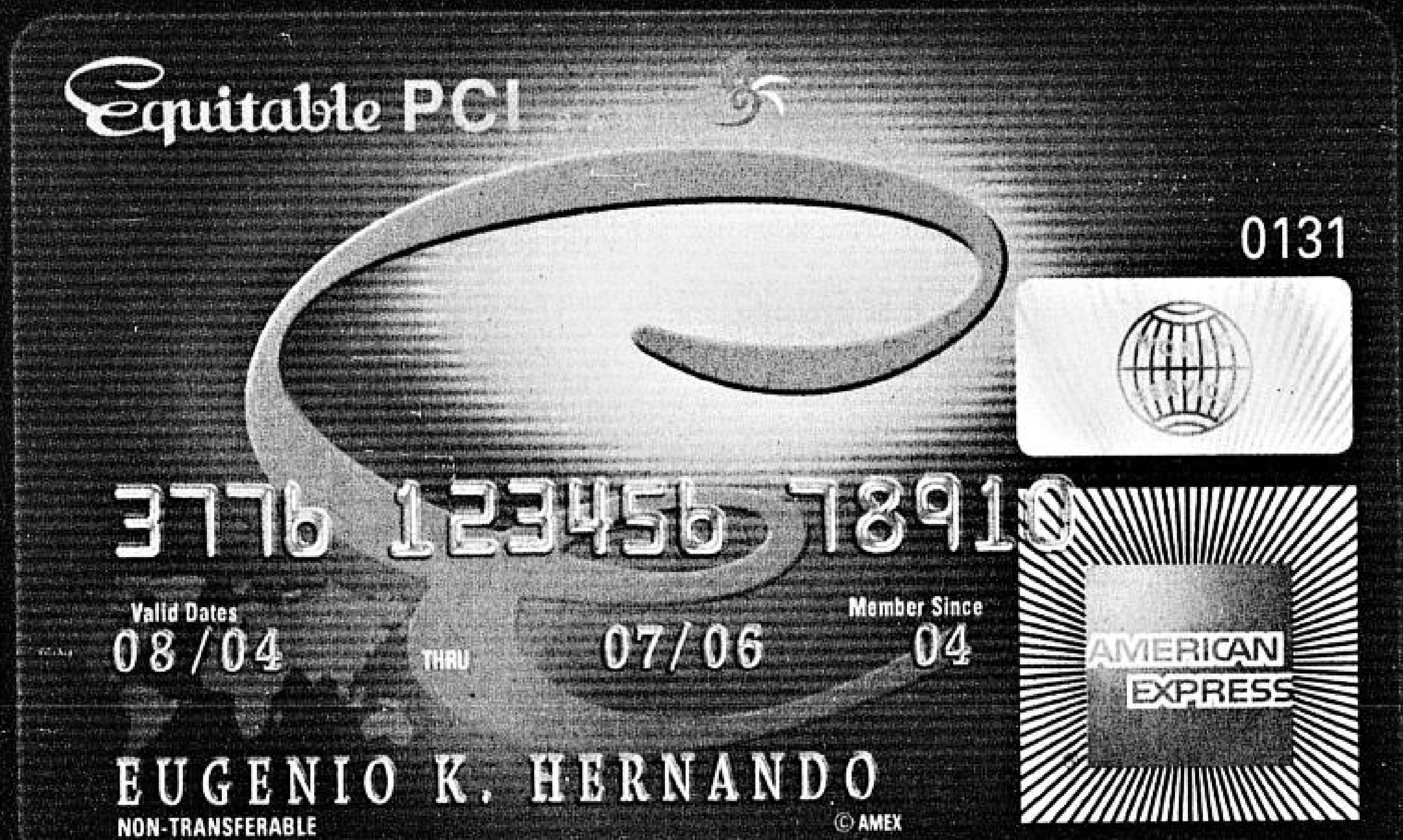

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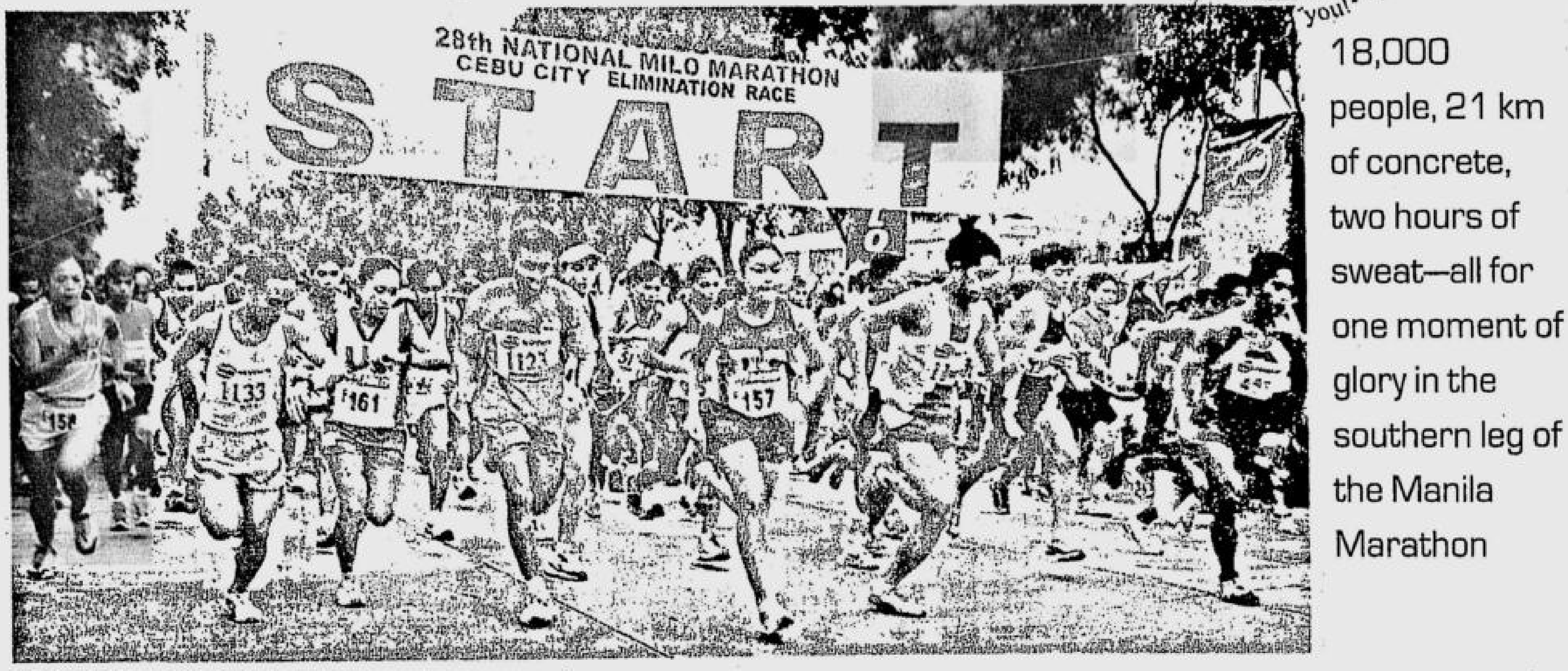
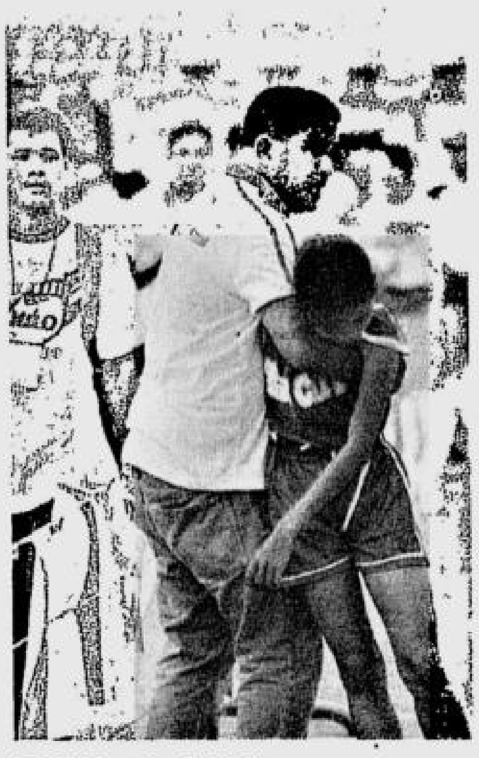


21-K mass start

18,000 people, 21 km of concrete, two hours of sweat—all for one moment of glory in the southern leg of the Manila Marathon



DRAMA at the finish line

Fun run in Cebu

CHRISTY Sevillano, winner of the 21-K run, women's category

By Javier Mata
2bU! Correspondent

CEBU last Aug. 16 was a sight to behold. Thousands of people, most of them wearing the same green uniform, converged in one spot for the Cebu leg of the 28th Milo Marathon.

With a record 18,000 registered runners, it was by far the most successful leg of the series. It took a full five minutes before the starting line was emptied of runners!

People already filled the starting line at the crack of dawn. The runners were first separated by categories. In front of the pack were the serious contenders, those running for 21 km before reaching the finish line.

Behind them were placed the little kids aged 6 to 12 years old, who were running just 3 km of the track. Finally, behind the little runts were the casual marathoners or "fun runners," who were to tackle 5 km of the race.

Cebu mayor Sonny Osmeña fired three shots to mark the start of the race, and the runners were off: first the 21K runners, then the kids (who were so excited to run they forgot they were supposed to start by the second shot), and finally the fun runners, who were the largest contingent.

Joyful finish

A little over 15 minutes passed before the first of the kiddie runners reached the finish line. The young ones smiled with relief once they crossed the tape. The scene wasn't entirely joyful, however, as several older runners reached the finished line by accidentally taking the 3K section of the race, leading to their disqualification.

Ten minutes after the last of the kids finished, the first of the 5K runners started pouring into the finish line, and officials had their work cut out for them as they tried to sort the times of each of the finishers for a good part of the hour.

WINNERS of the 21K men's category

What to do while waiting for the serious runners to arrive? Entertainment, of course. Local band First Step provided music as the organizers prepared the cheerleading competition among elementary and high school students.

The cheerleading was a riot—not your usual pom-pom routine, but more with "Otso-Otso" and "Pamela" moves and even Sandara Park's Queen-of-England wave!

Like clockwork, the 21K runners arrived soon after the cheerleading competition. You could almost hear the "Chariots of Fire" theme play as they crossed the finish line.

Shortly after, the race officials were done with the tabulations of race winners for each category, and the awarding saw the winners basking on stage in their moment of glory. Those who finished the race on time were given certificates, while the winners of the 21K track will compete in the national event of the Milo Marathon in Manila in November.

Be A Peace Advocate

By Maui V. Reyes

WHILE it's not enough to slap on a "Honk if you want Peace!" bumper sticker at the back of your car, every little action helps. Here are a few suggestions how you can fight the war for peace.

- **Organize Something.**

As cliché as it sounds, the youth (that's you) is the future. We have the capacity to organize ourselves—so let's do it. Bring the community together, or your barkada together, and talk amongst yourselves the issues that are most important to you. If there's one thing that we all have in common, it's our need for security.

- **Keep an Open Mind.**

What makes the youth rock is that we're more connected than other generations, thanks to the world wide web and easier access to international organizations. Being exposed to more cultures gives us an open mind about things, and we ought to keep it that way. Expand your views and form new opinions by inviting organizations like GZO to give talks at your school or work.

- **Show your Support**

Giving even just a small percentage of your allowance to peace groups or even sticking a "Kapayapaan" logo on your car can go a long way. Pick an issue that interests you and see what you can do to support that issue. If it's the banning of land mines you're interested in, you might want to check out http://www.icbl.org.

Or, stop by any of the activities for Peace Month:

■ Sept. 17 – Gains and Challenges in Peace Building Seminar, 1-5 p.m. at the Environmental Studies Institute Bldg @ Miriam College, QC

■ Sept. 21 – Peace Month Exhibit and Book Launching @ 5th floor SM Megamall
– Interfaith Dialogue Series, Isabela Basilan
– An Evening to Honor the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumnae Peace Advócates @ Miriam College, QC
– Associate of Major Superiors of the Philippines Peace March and Activites, 2p.m. @ Quezon City Circle

■ Sept. 21-24 – Cinema Without Borders: A Showcase of Film and Video Documentations on Peace, Justice and Human Rights @ Philippine Normal University, Manila
– International Day of Peace Exhibit, "Campaign Against Small Arms" and Poster Making contest on "No War Toys This Christmas" @ Miriam College, QC

■ Sept. 24-26 – Peace Camp, "Handling Conflict Towards Transformation: A Challenge for the Youth" @ Pax Christi Pilipinas, Negros Occidental

■ Sept. 26 - Bike for Peace @ Quezon City Memorial Circle
– Human Rights Concert @ San Rafael Parish, Balut, Tondo, Manila

■ Sept. 27 – Exhibit, "Campaign Against Small Arms" @ Glorietta, Makati (between Gift Gate and McDonald's)

■ Sept. 30 – Peace Concert and Awarding of Poster Making Contest @ ULTRA, Pasig City

- **Volunteer**

No, you won't be sent to rebel camps across the country. Contact the GZO Institute at 2/F Joseph Cardinal Hoffner Social Training Center, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Tel. No. 4266001 loc. 4826 or 4266122, or e-mail peace@codewan.com.ph or gzo-peace@admu.edu.ph, or log on to www.justpeace.net.ph

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From page C1

there are limits, and with land mines, it's mostly the civilians who end up as victims," he says.

Every year, there are almost 20,000 landmine casualties, or about two victims every hour. Two out of ten victims are civilians. A 2000 Landmine Monitor Report stated that a rebel group in the Philippines alone had planted as many as 3,000 homemade mines.

Fortunately, GZO seems to be succeeding in the Philippines. It has managed to coax the government and three Philippine rebel groups to sign a deed of commitment saying they wouldn't use land mines anymore.

"Sexifying" peace

GZO also works hard to promote its other programs, which includes "Healing the Peace Advocates", which help peace workers destress and learn crisis management. Child therapy is also provided for children from conflicted areas, while an international project, "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize", nominates peace workers for the prestigious recognition.

Lubang laments that the project's biggest challenge can be found on campus: the lack of awareness among young people about peace issues.

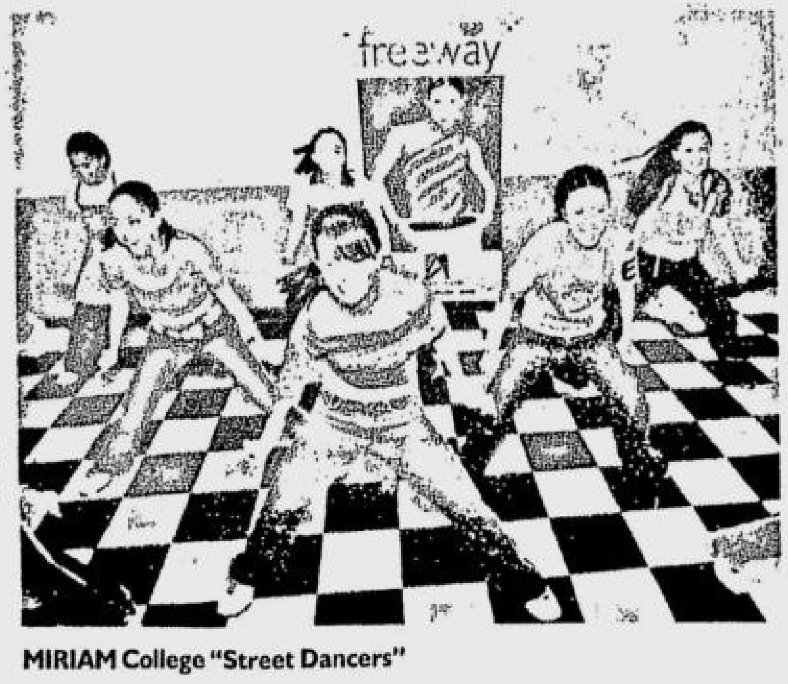
"It's hard to let people get to know about the project," he says. "You always have to find an interesting slant in anything that has to do with peace. When I gave a talk in Quezon City about the abuse of firearms, all they wanted to hear was Angelo dela Cruz or Kris Aquino. It is a challenge for advocates to make peace talks interesting. It seems like the public only wants to hear stories about war and other controversial topics."

In fact, a study conducted last year by the Peace Institute on media behavior said that whenever the topic of peace came up on TV, three out of ten viewers turned their television sets off.

"Viewers want war, violence, sex," says Lubang. "That is why to get our message across, we have to make peace look 'in'. We have to 'sexify' peace."

Still, he remains optimistic. "We can do this with little steps. First, we have to create consciousness, with the flags [that we're selling] and the different activities lined up, until we form a peace constituency."

"The youth are the leaders of tomorrow," he adds. "Which is why it's important to instill the spirit of peace in them."



MIRIAM College "Street Dancers"

They could have danced all night

MARK your calendar. The year's biggest and most-awaited inter-school dance competition, the Freeway In Motion Dance Face-off, will take place on Sept. 18, Saturday, 5 p.m., at the SM Megamall Activity Center. Dance groups from eight schools will groove their way to over P100,000 worth of prizes, with Freeway's very own G Tongi to judge and show off her own moves!

We witnessed high-energy and breathtaking moves during the contest eliminations held last Sept. 4 at the Centro Flamenco dance studio. Fifteen groups, selected from numerous submissions nationwide, made the judges' jaws drop with amazement. They turned, kicked, split, screamed, producing a high-octane show.

COO Sheree Roxas-Chua, one of the judges, said, "I never thought a lot of young girls today have extreme talent in dancing! And choosing the 8 schools to compete for the finals was not easy at all."

At the end of the day, eight groups were selected to compete for the grand finals. These were the groups with the most outstanding choreography, remarkable synchronization, best stage presence and audience impact, most appropriate outfit and style, and the most undeniable Freeway appeal. These lucky groups include De La Salle University (Dance Company - Jazz), Far Eastern University (Dynamix), Miriam College QC (C-CATT Street Dancers), Miriam High School QC (Sayawatha), Polytechnic University of the Philippines Moverz in Motion), Technological University of the Philippines (Bahaghari), University of the Philippines-Diliman (Street Dance Club), and University of the Philippines-Manila (Indayog).

Now, who would want to miss this? Bring your booty to SM Megamall on September 18 and witness what we're all buzzing about!

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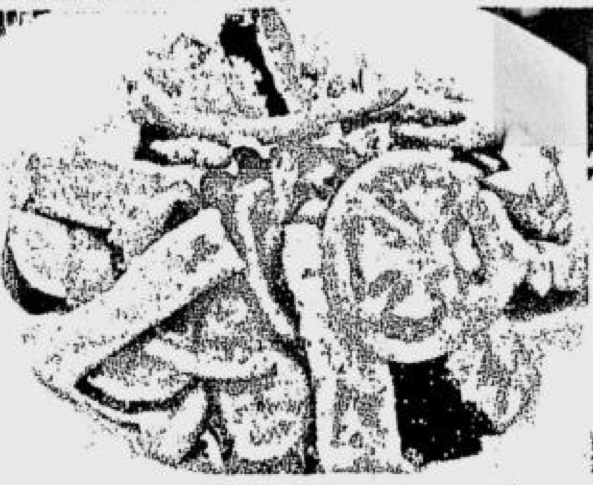
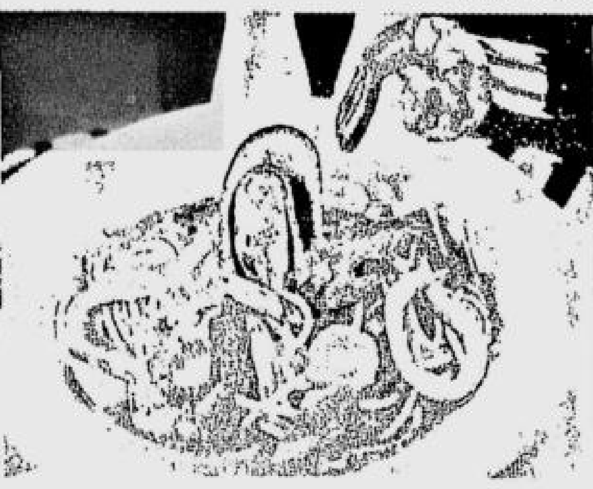
Log on to www.freeway.net.ph.

RESTO OF THE WEEK

CHICKEN Teriyaki Rice Casserole


GRILLED Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad


JAPANESE Seafood Soup Spaghetti

FRIED Prawn Curry with Rice

More than just coffee

By Pam Pastor

This Japanese chain has changed coffee shop cuisine as we know it

PEOPLE go to coffee shops for coffee, not for food. And for good reason. How many of your café visits have involved subjecting yourself to the torture of choking down pastry that's less than tasty?

But here's good news for caffeine addicts.

UCC (Ueshima Coffee Company) Coffee, which is popular for using its siphon method of making coffee, is changing the way people enjoy their trips to coffee shops. A recent visit to their Café Terrace in Fort Bonifacio proved to be a treat. There is no doubt that their extensive menu will not only please coffee enthusiasts, but would charm food lovers as well.

Our meal started with two refreshing salads: Japanese Seafood Salad and Grilled Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad.

Seafood lovers will find the Japanese Seafood Salad delightful. The huge serving of tossed iceberg lettuce, sweet corn, roe and crab meat topped with breaded scallops, cuttlefish and prawn served with Japanese dressing can be a meal on its own. The Grilled Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad—iceberg lettuce topped with grilled tomato, asparagus, eggplant, bell pepper, mushrooms and tuna fillet flavored with teppanyaki sauce and served with special Japanese dressing—is also a discovery for people who love their greens.

UCC's menu may have been modified to cater to the Filipino palate but the Japanese influence is still evident in a number of dishes. And that's not a bad thing. The fusion of different tastes is an adventure for your taste buds.

Secret sauce

If you are not averse to curry, The Fried Prawn Curry with Rice is a must-try. Deep fried breaded prawns served on top of Japanese rice may not sound extraordinary, but the secret lies in the Japanese curry sauce, which is made of over 30 different spices and vegetables.

People who enjoy pasta should try the Japanese Seafood Soup Spaghetti. The rich noodle soup is served with shrimps, New Zealand mussels, scallops and cuttlefish. We had the creamy tomato version but diners are given three options—tomato, white or curry sauce.

The Chicken Teriyaki Rice Casserole is so good it's almost sinful. Deep fried teriyaki-flavored chicken served on top of flavorful curry rice and covered with Japanese white sauce can only be described as heaven on a plate. I loved this dish so much that after a full day of craving, I went all the way to UCC at the Fort at midnight only to be crushed by the realization that the place was already closed.

UCC Coffee's selection of desserts will definitely make your mouth water. It's another reason to succumb to UCC's charms. There were so many options—including a "lava" cake with flowing chocolate—that it was difficult to choose just one.

We finally opted for the Chocolate Pinipig Crunch—UCC's take on the old ice cream favorite. It did not disappoint. Our taste buds took sheer pleasure from the layers of chocolate fudge and mousse, crunchy pinipig and luscious chocolate syrup.

The vanilla ice cream which was served with the cake provided balance and softened the strong flavors of the rich chocolate. It was a great ending to a great meal.

Well, I'm no coffee drinker but I'm willing to make this place my new home.

UCC Coffee Café Terrace has branches at the ground floor of The Forbeswood Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and The Paseo Center, Paseo De Roxas corner Sedeño St. Salcedo Village, Makati. Visit UCC Coffee Vienna Café branches at Tomas Morato corner Scout Castor Quezon City; 59 Unit-A Connecticut Street, Greenhills, San Juan and The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

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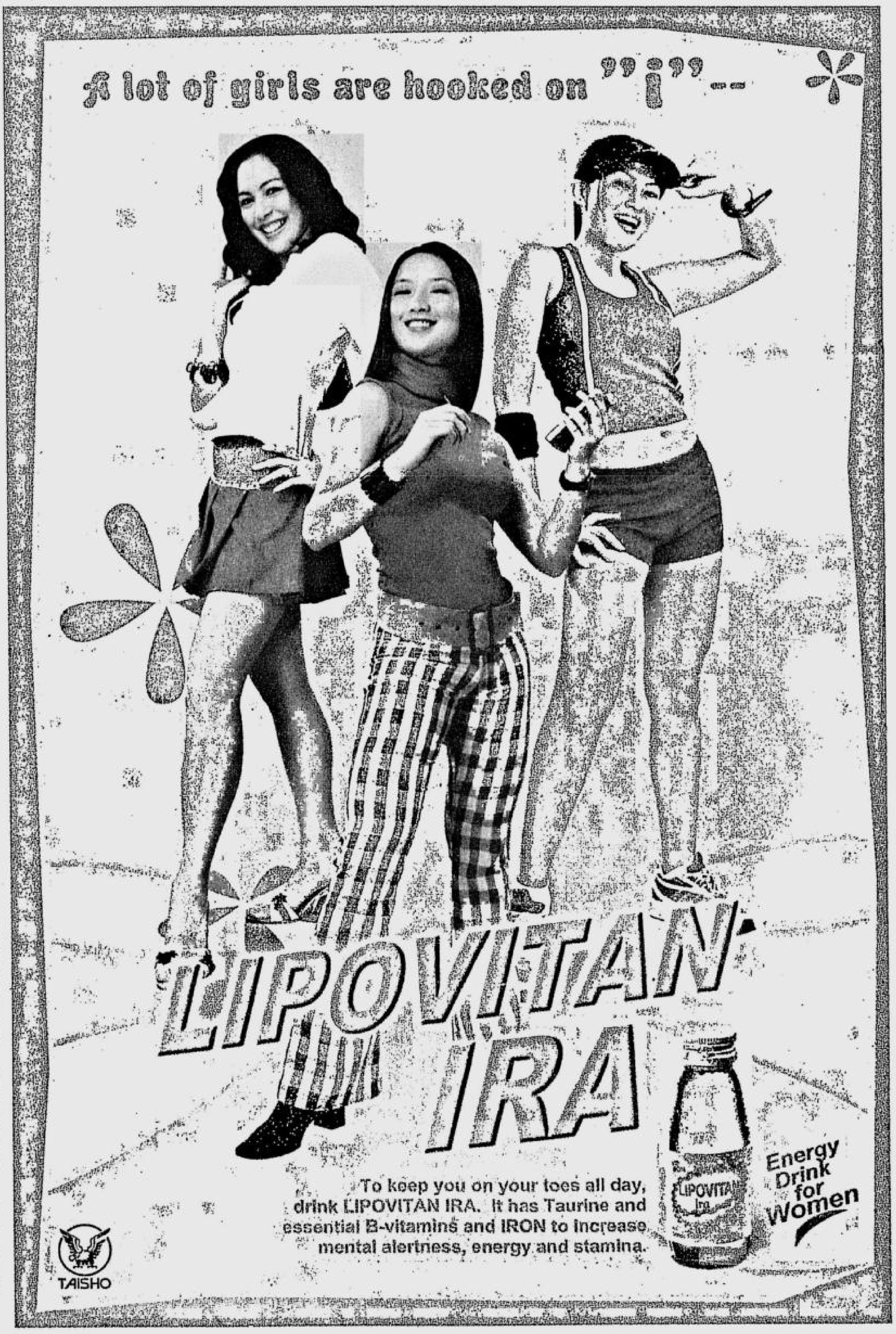

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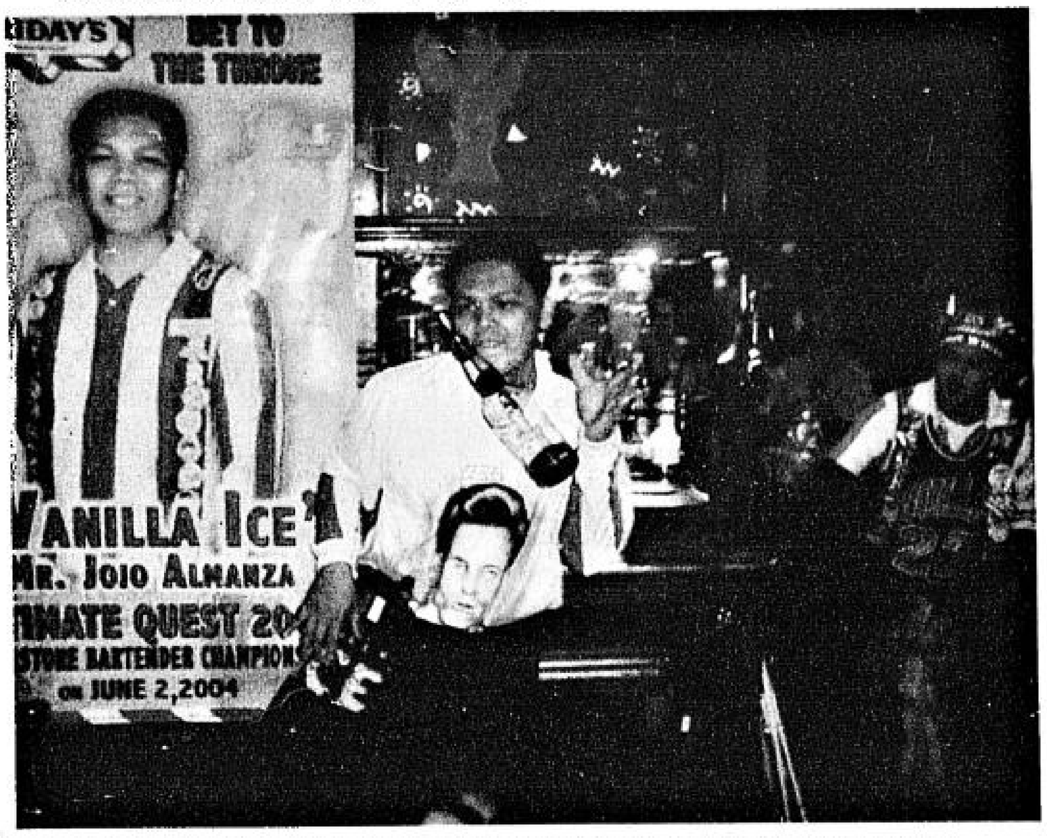

JOJO "Vanilla Ice" Almanza shows why he's this year's TGI Friday's bartending champ.

Shake, rattle and pour

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
Contributor

GTOENGI did it. Even Cindy Kurleto is getting into the act. Bartending is becoming a cool thing to do, and there's probably no better way to get inspired about becoming one than by watching TGI Friday's bartending championship.

An annual contest among the resto's bartenders, the event is held to decide the country's representative in the regional tilt to be held in Guam. If lucky, he or she can even go on to face other regional winners for the World Bartender Championship in the Bahamas. Bartending is clearly more than just pouring drinks.

Despite the heavy rains, fans of both the competitors and of Friday's good food filled TGI Friday's Glorietta to the rafters. Previously, the five contestants from the different branches had undergone a behind-the-scenes comprehensive skills competition, where they demonstrated their knowledge of Friday's food and drinks, their speed in making drinks, and even their ability to serve wine correctly, among others.

IS SHE for real? Cindy Kurleto does some bottle-flipping of her own.

They were even tested on the proper way to cut pineapple (yes, there is such a thing, so that the pineapple slices decorating our cocktails would still look fresh and not mushy.) For that night however, the first event was the pour-off competition, where each contestant tried to pour exactly 2 ounces of a drink (or whatever the required amount was), without using any measuring devices.

Freestyle highlight

The highlight of the night, though, was the freestyle competition, where the bartenders spun and juggled bottles and glasses, all the while preparing the drinks which the judges had chosen.

First on the list was Ruel "Twister" Cuadra from TGIFriday's Alabang. True to his name, he twisted his arms and body while throwing and catching liquor bottles. He even flipped around a strawberry shake of sorts, without spilling both the drink and the whipped cream topping!

Larry "Flairdevil" Guevara of the Malate branch was a crowd favorite, grinning widely from ear to ear as he danced energetically to the latest hip-hop tunes, all the while spinning bottles, straws and even tissue paper.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia branch's bet, Mike "311" Abalos, flipped ice cubes and juggled the kitchen blender. Who says only bottles can be juggled?

The competition became more intense when the next contender, Troy "Spawn" Ilarde of Quezon City, showed off the stuff that made him last year's champion. He opened his routine with a clever card trick, and then proceeded to his almost-flawless juggling act.

Last to present was Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza of Glorietta. In between flipping bottles, he pulled out a flower bouquet for Cindy Kurleto, one of the judges for the evening. After each 15-minute routine, hosts Maxspeed and Tetanews from Magic 89.9 auctioned off drinks concocted by the bartenders, which had the male guests scrambling to buy Cindy's Sex on the Beach.

Ladies' spot

"Celebrity Flair" followed, where Cindy Kurleto did some bottle-flipping of her own. Two girl bartenders also performed a synchronized routine of their own. Although less complicated than that of the all-male contestants, it still inspired the ladies in the audience to someday go into bartending.

Jojo "Vanilla Ice" later emerged over-all champion, taking home, among others, goodies from Rudy Project and a trip to Boracay.

At which point I made a resolution to start flipping bottles in the kitchen to jumpstart my own bartending career. In the meantime. I guess I'll have to content myself with just watching these guys juggle bottles and blenders.

One thing's for sure though: The next time I go to Friday's, I'm definitely going to sit at the bar and I'll definitely order something other than my usual beer. I might just be lucky enough to have my drinks done by the next world bartending champ.

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This is a **back-to-back accomplishment** for Spoon Interactive Arts, having won last year's *Sony Ericsson Code-to-Cash P800 Competition*. Spoon Interactive Arts is the content development division of ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of PLDT.

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*GearBox: Puzzle Party will soon be available for download on www.sonyericsson.com/fun

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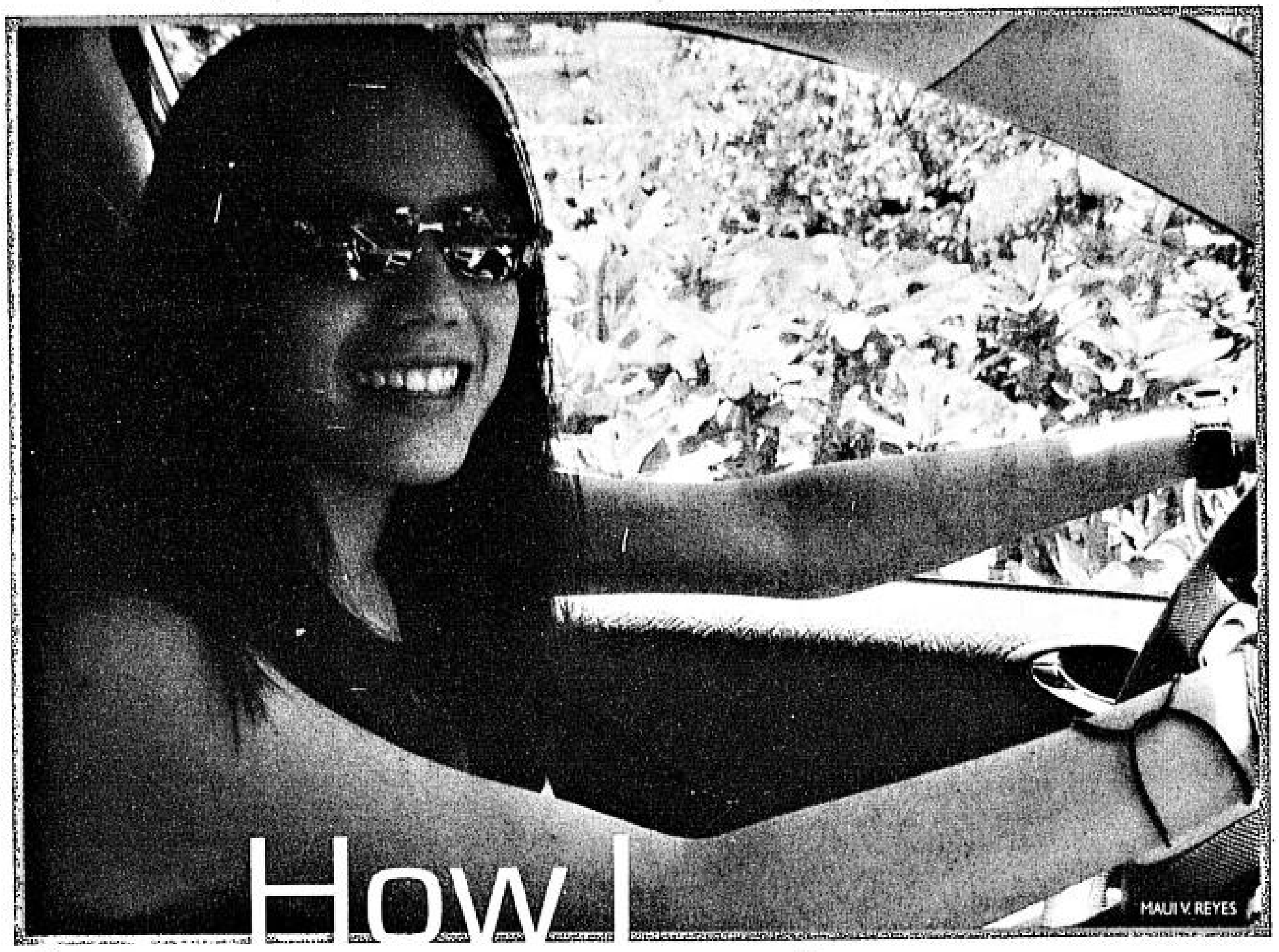

MAUI V. REYES

How I jazzed up my weekend

By Maui V. Reyes, *2bU! Correspondent*
and Ian Magbanua, *Contributor*

I'm so in love with the Honda Jazz, which I got to road-test for seven days, that I wanted to sleep in it the night before it was picked up

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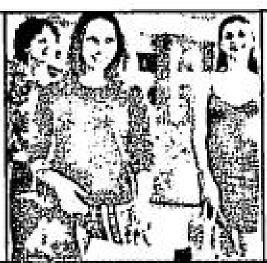

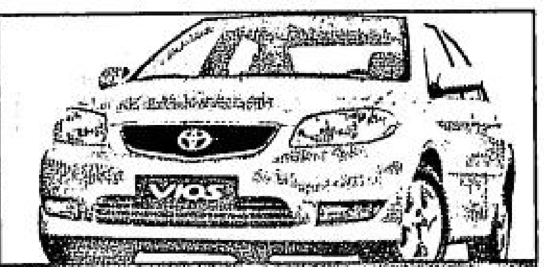

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MISS EARTH 2004 Patty Cojuangco at the Good Earth Metro Walk launch

SWEET souls [illegible] Iya and JM Landameo

PREGGY and proud Oudine Santos at seven months

My life as a rin

Tim Yap

HELLO? **Tim Yap** here. What? You'd have to talk a little louder—I'm at a party! Fun, fun, fun—party, party, party!"

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Miss Good Earth

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From page D1

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- I-DSi (Dual and Sequential Ignition). Basically, it's environmental friendly because it reduces harmful emissions. That, and amazingly, it doesn't consume that much fuel even when at full speed. Using it for half a day, I hardly consumed ¼ of gas in the tank.

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- No central locking button. This is a really petty preference, but I'm used to pushing a button to lock every door. With this car, you have to unlock and lock your door, and I don't know if I was lent a faulty unit, because sometimes I even had to open the door and lock it for all doors to lock.
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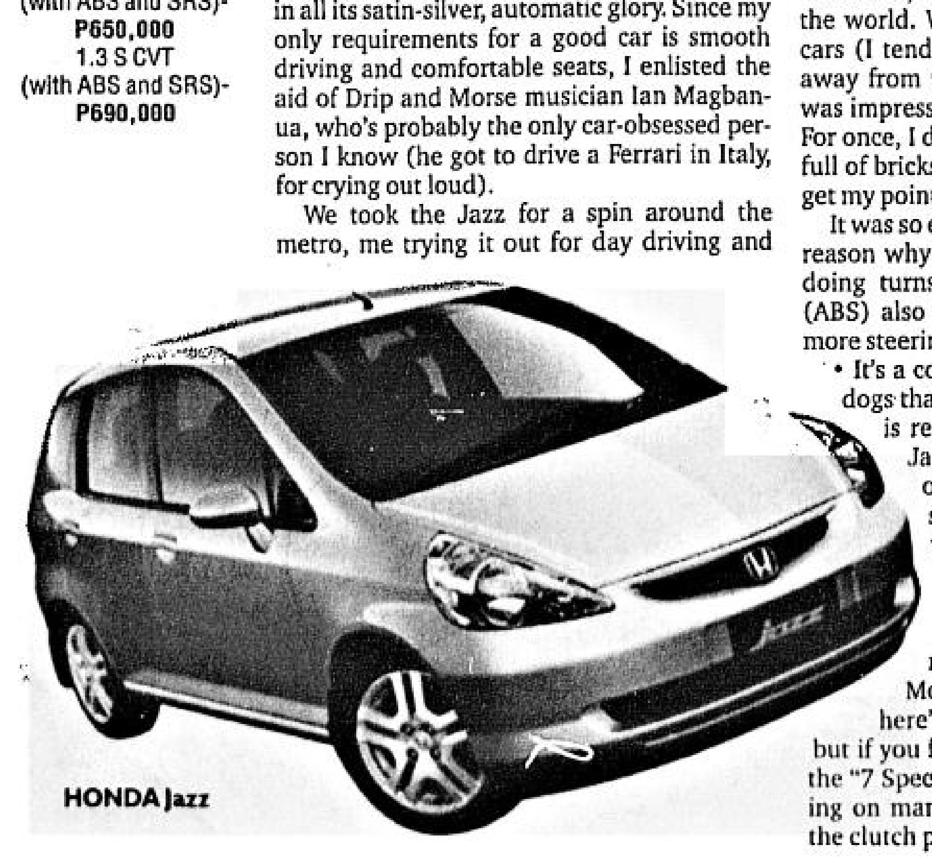

HONDA Jazz

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GOOD EARTH'S gorgeous gems Ria Castrillo, Vany Morales, Ginger Ignacio, Ana Martha Moreno and Sonja Ocampo

MOBILE MADNESS: Tina Abing, Joan Gonzales and Louie Ang

ADDICT BUDDIES: Nina Gomez and Guido Zaballero

BUTCH San Agustin and Charly Ad

HUBBY TUBBY: Trisha and Jon Jon San Agustin—happy birthday to you!

MISS EARTH 2004 Patty Cojuangco at the Good Earth Metro Walk launch

SWEET couple [illegible] and JM Lardameo

PREGGY and proud: Oudine Santos at seven months

My life as a rin

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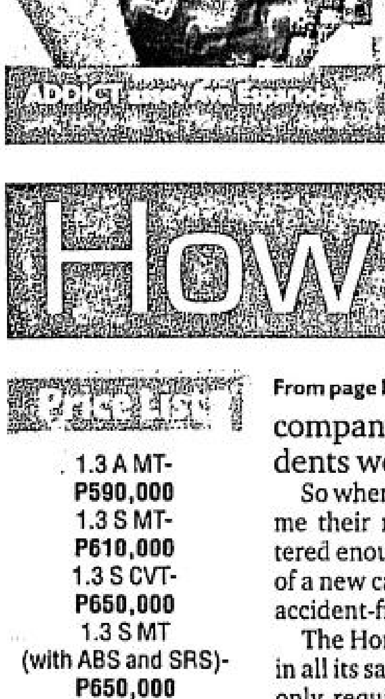

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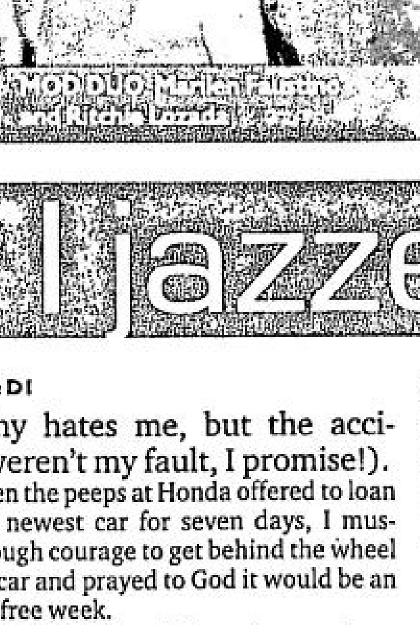

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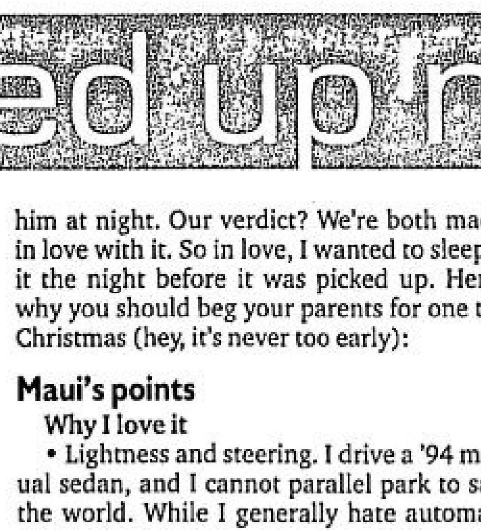

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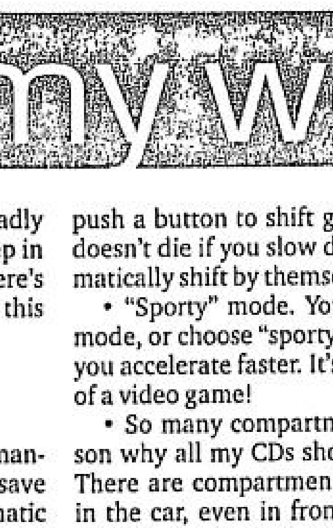

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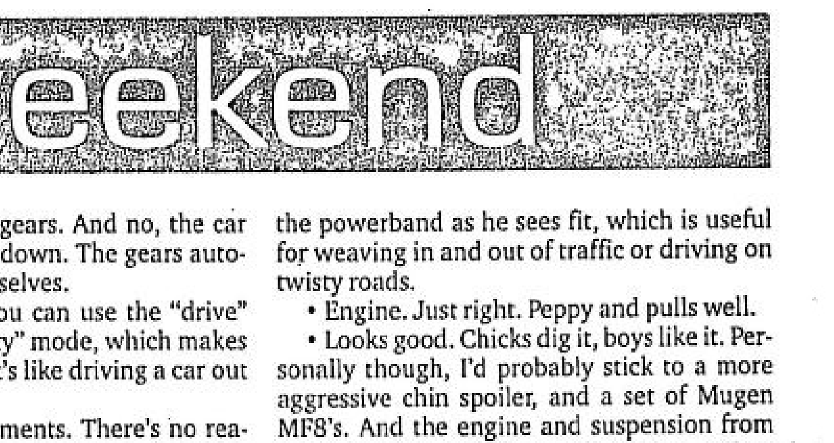

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CAMERA CAREER Dennis Lucindo and PJ Castro

UP TO EARTH Cathy Teves and Ginger Ignacio

Q TIPS Quad de la Paz and Tanya Moreno

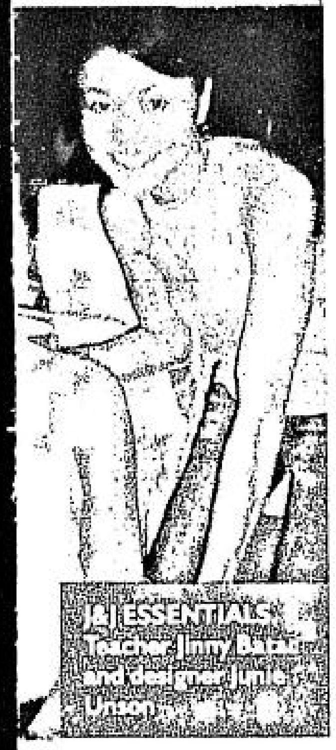
READY TO GO Raymond Mojica

BLOOMING Bobby Yan

LA DIVA herself Ria Romero

gtune

TROWALK MAIDEN Ana Marina Morano at the ing of her latest venture, Good Earth in Ortigas



J&J ESSENTIALS Teacher Inny Bazar and designer Junie Unson

my favorites) talk about their Poveda teachers. Very cute!

The girls started dancing while mouthing "Pa-da-boo-rey, pa-da-boo-rey, keek-ball-change, peevot!"

Private Poveda jokes aside, the food was fab, as only the famous chef **Henry** could provide. Incidentally, it was his birthday too.

Tanya told me she got scared of the dragon dance before I arrived. I guess she hadn't been to Chinese restaurant openings much. Or to Ongpin during Chinese New Year.

'Ber' month alert

Today, Sept. 15, marks the end of the "month of the ghost" in the Chinese calendar, my astrologer-partyphile friend told me. (Another one told me that it's the end of mercury on retrograde.)

Already, my calendar is getting packed with events—"Ber" months.

Just this week alone, the style set is fully booked. Tonight, Mega will unveil its 10 Most Stylish Women—it's a list that ranges from charity queens to shopping queens to cocktail queens—all queens! So if you feel like one, head over to Mati and look for editor in chief and perennially best dressed **Liza Ilarde**, and ask her to put you in her next year's list!

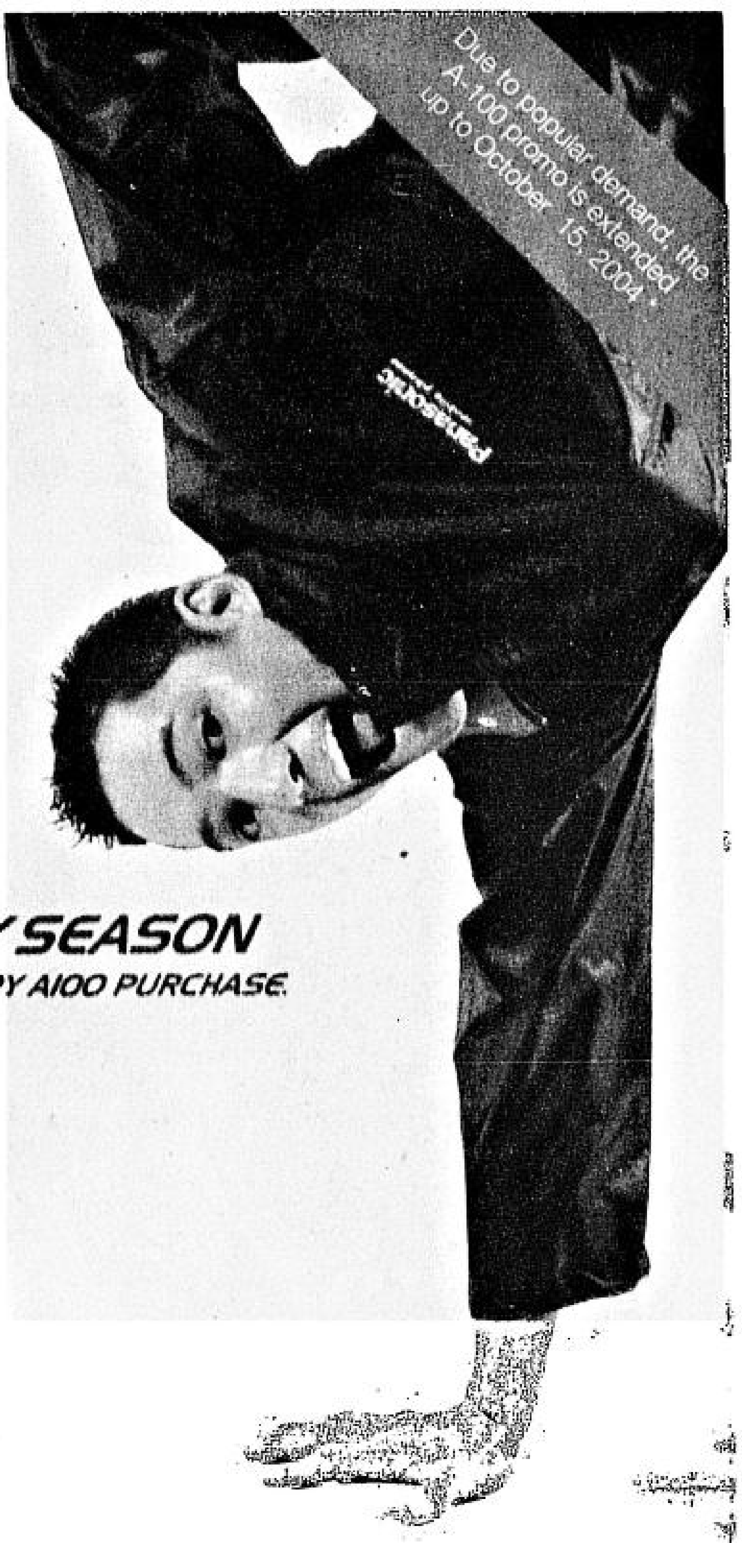
Tomorrow, Rustan's Home Ware division is hosting seven parties in one floor! Well, okay—seven home settings in one floor. It'll be like house-hopping, from Victorian Parlour to Polynesian lounge, what a trip!

After, I'll surely hop to the Vera Wang show styled by **Jenni Epperson** for American Express. I'm sure **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo** will do everything to make this event a Mix of fun and fab.

This Saturday Super! weekend, prepare for a dance-off with **G Tongi** and Freeway at SM Megamall. Think "Zoolander," dance version. The best dancers from different universities were chosen for this dance encounter with Giselle and the Hotlegs. Yup, she's back in town and oh-so-ready to groove.

The invite for this Friday night's launch of the MTV Credit Card at Temple Bar by Equitable Visa reads, "You are invited to a very special party." When you open it, it says, philosophically, "Life is a party—and you are the VIP." Now, how's that for empowerment?

Fun, fun, fun—party, party, party!



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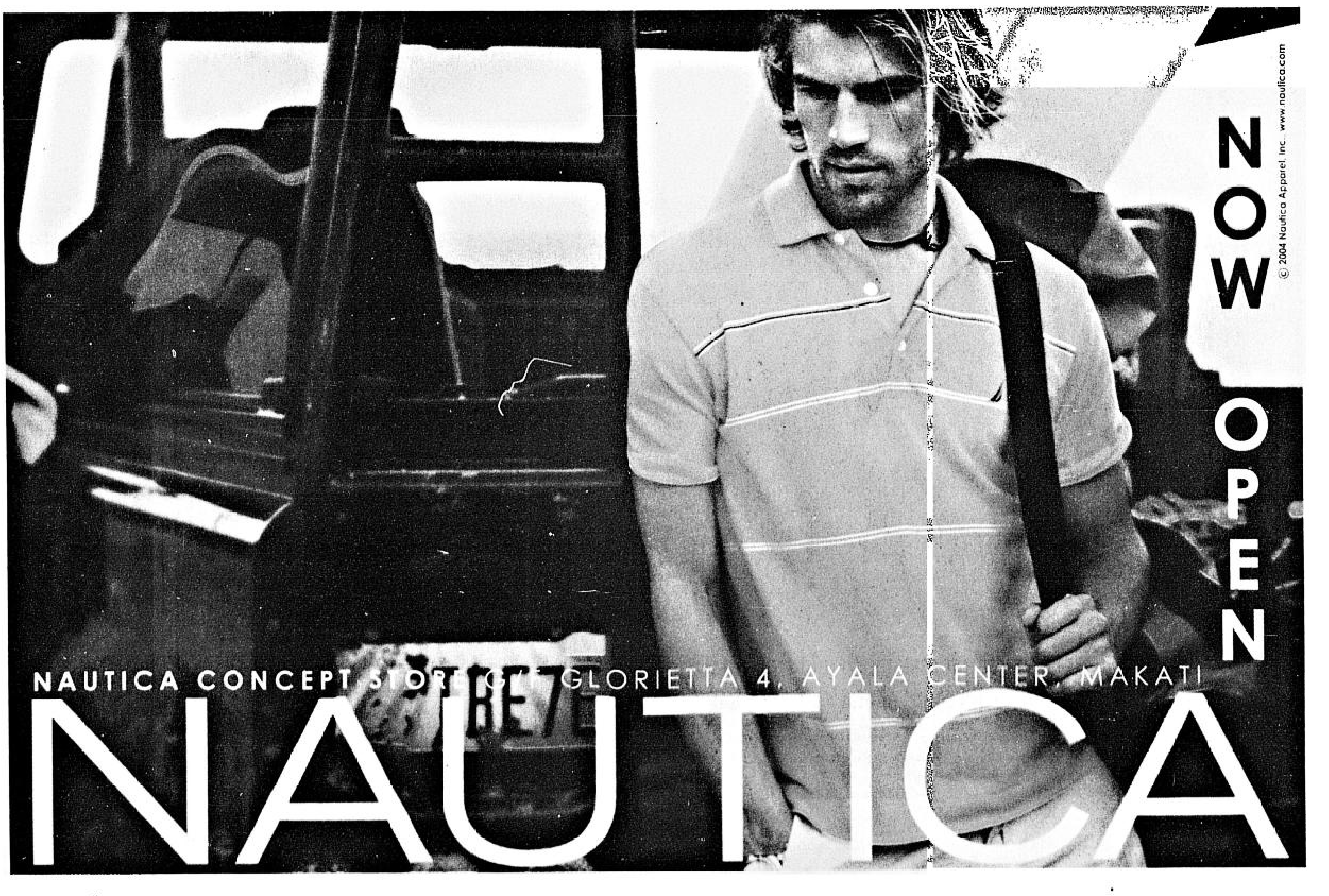

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Don't you think he's cute?

Hmmmm... Puede na

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IDD

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Katie, what's this I hear about a boy?
I don't think I've met him yet!

Daddy! I thought you were still in New York!

IR

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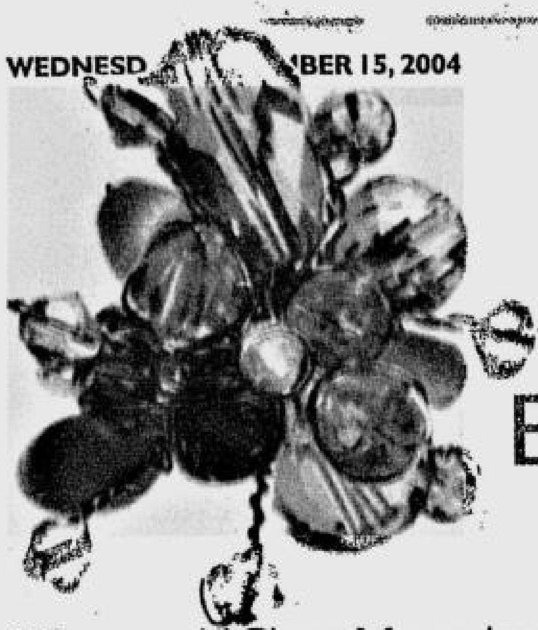
LIFESTYLE



Bright young sparkler

23-year-old Ciara Marasigan has parlayed her deft hands and creative juices into a lustrous jewelry-making venture

PERFECT accent. Brooch made of Mother of Pearl leaves, Keisei and freshwater pearls and clear glass crystals embedded on stainless steel wire

By Allison W. Lopez

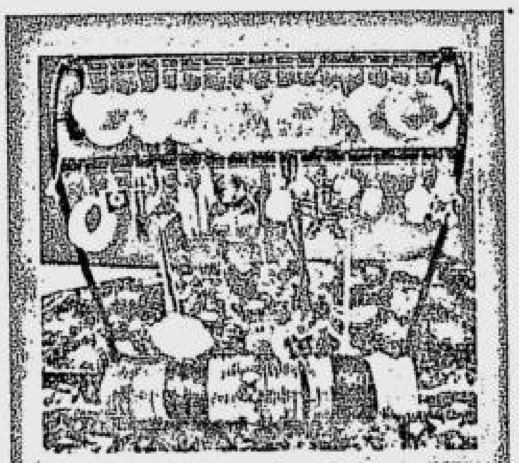
SHE bleeds for her art, but she doesn't mind at all. In fact, she sees herself doing this for the rest of her life.

"I literally bleed for my pieces because of the wires," says 23-year-old Ciara Marasigan, who combines harsh metal with delicate semi-precious stones to come up with stunning works of art.

And she does these with her own hands

BRIGHT/ E2

THE ARTIST, Ciara Marasigan, models her creation. A twisted cuff made of unpolished and faceted amethyst, ruby and violet glass crystals embedded on aluminum and stainless steel wire



ACCESSORIES from Bangkok

2BU! FASHION FREAKS

Bazaar addicts, unite!

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THIS is really turning into bazaar country.

And we love it.

The Fashion Freaks raided The Ortigas Bazaar Center's Outdoor Bazaar last weekend and we found a treasure trove, thanks to Lolita's Liza Puti-an.

Liza travels regularly to Bangkok and brings home goodies that she knows would cater to the Filipino taste.

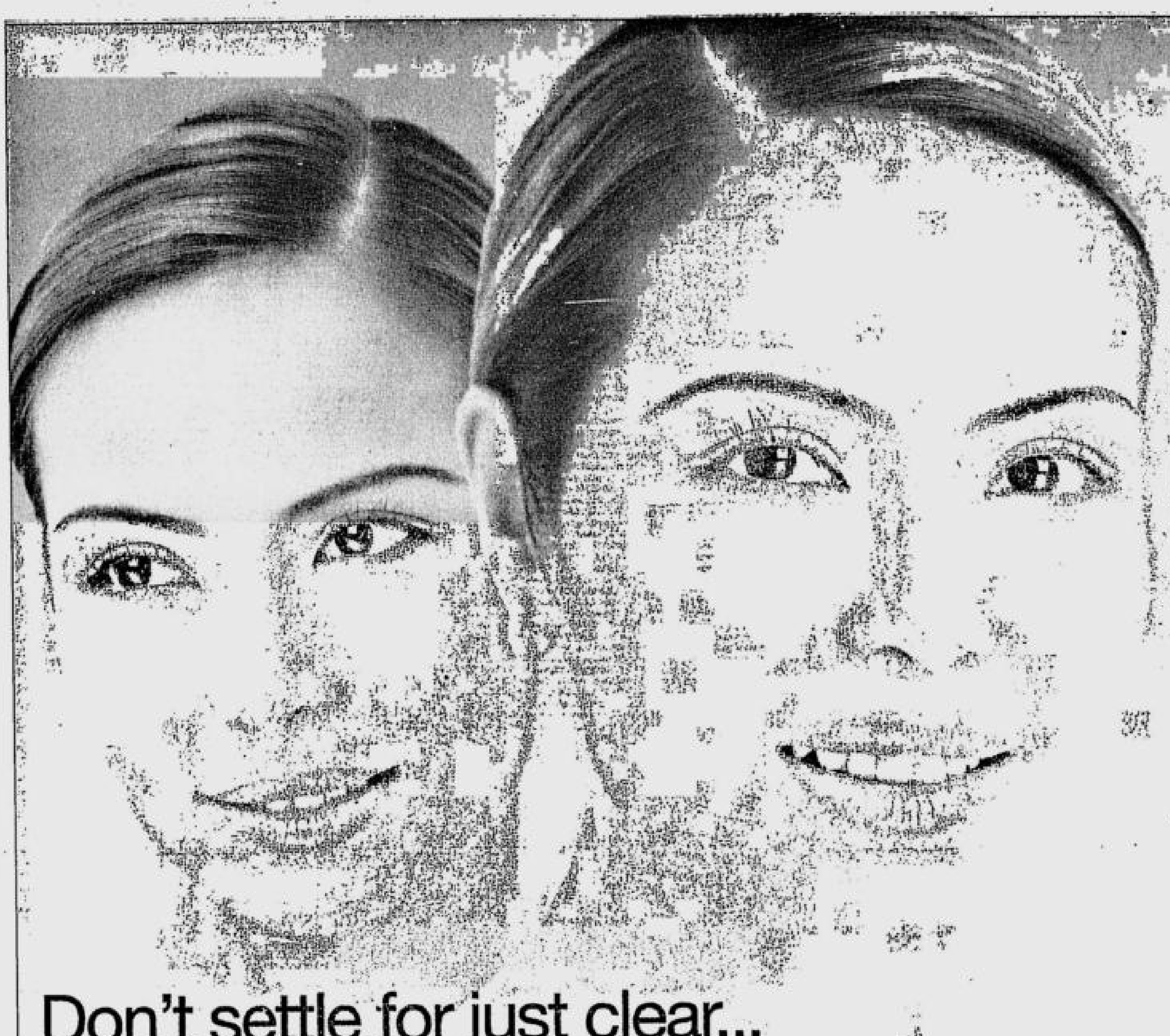
We found embellished chopsticks, hobo bags, colorful pants, wacky shirts, fab earrings, crazy bangles and psychedelic flip flops.

And that's just in one booth.

We're definitely coming back for more.

You may contact Liza Puti-an at

BAZAAR/ E2



No matter how old you are, your age doesn't have to show on your face. You can always delight in your clear, flawless skin, as beautiful as when you were a lot younger.

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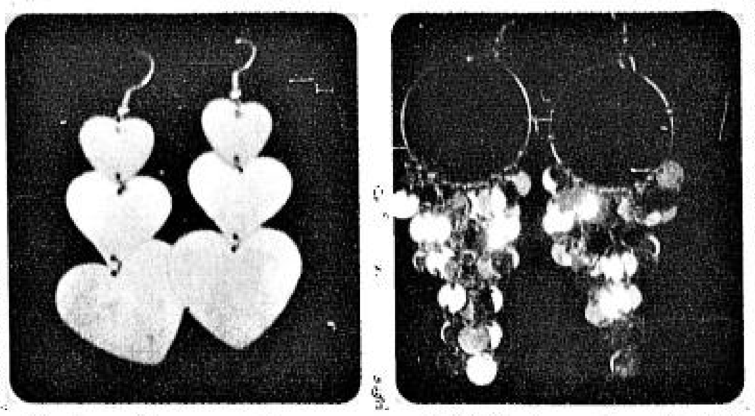
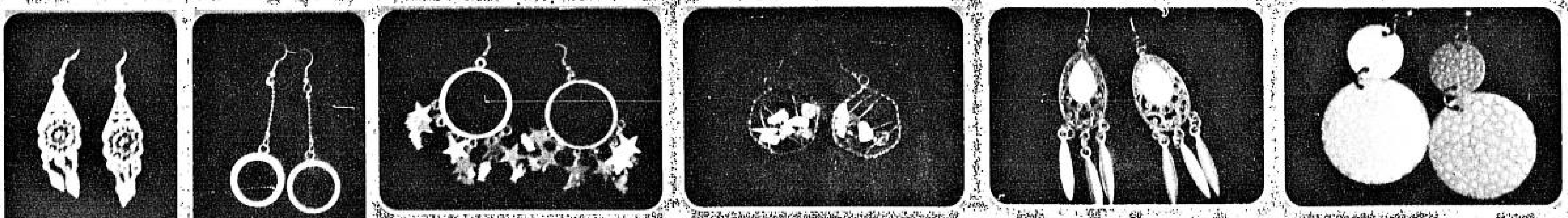
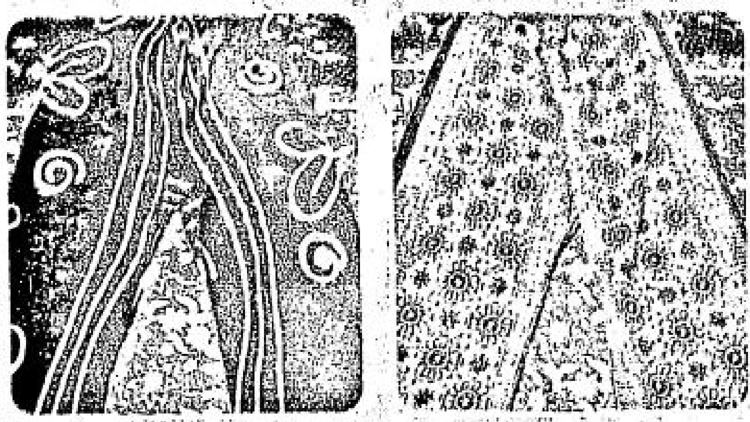


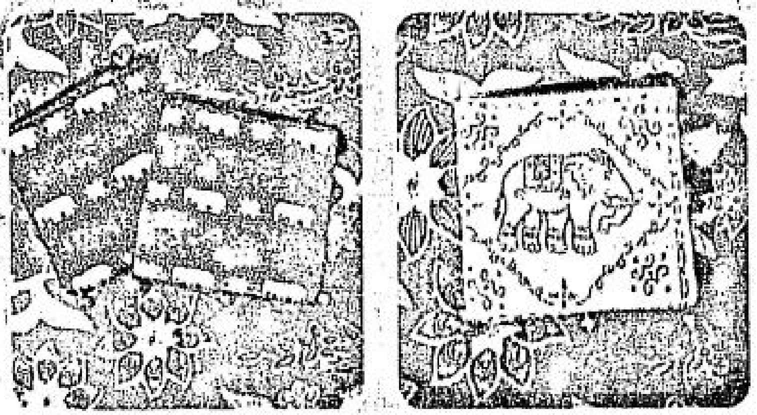
THESE danglies will light your face up. Earrings, P120 per pair



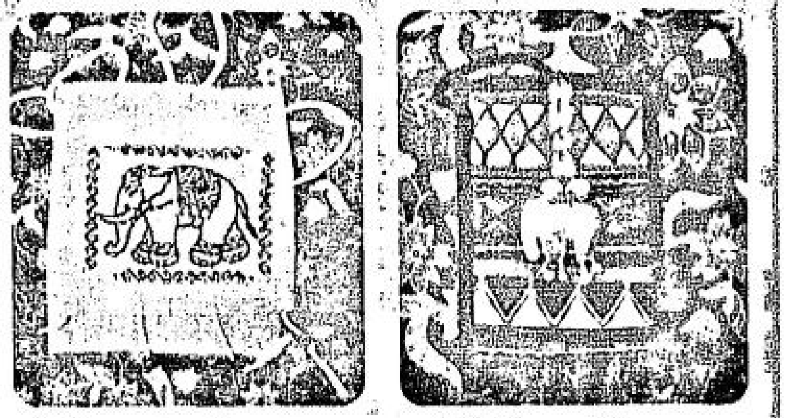
METAL earrings of all kinds, P120 per pair



BESTSELLERS. These cropped pants go for P350.

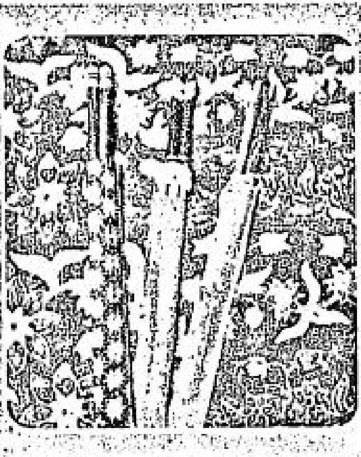


PRETTY PURSES, P60 each

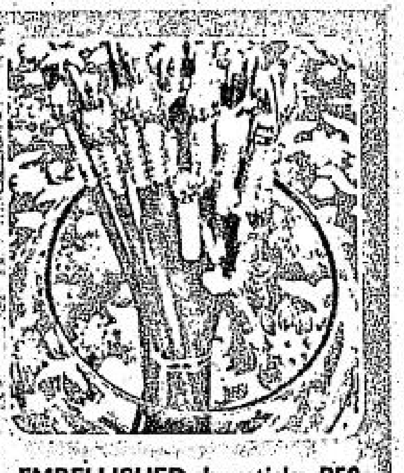


SMALL bags, P150

CARRY around your essentials in these lovely bags. P350 each



PLAIN chopsticks with holder, P70 per pair



EMBELLISHED chopsticks, P50 each

Bright youn

From page E1

and a pair of pliers. The results are unique creations that exude romance and femininity, the signature style of Ciara Creates.

Serendipitous start

Ciara Creates began serendipitously two years ago when Ciara began toying with her grandma's jewelry to shake off stress and pressure. She was then studying for a macroeconomics exam, and her hands were itching for something to hold.

They found their way to her lola's necklaces made of gemstones and crystals on nylon thread. She had a flash of inspiration, whipped out a pair of pliers, and went to work creating her own necklace.

The next day, her classmates asked her where she got her pendant, and were delighted to find out she created it. The young lady was on her way. Ciara began making pieces for her friends for free, until she realized she could make a venture out of it.

Thus her small business was born, "thanks to my macro professor," says the University of Asia and Pacific management graduate, who is featured in this month's Entrepreneur magazine.

Now, Ciara Creates has a line of pendants, cuffs, rings, earrings, brooches, painetas, tiaras—an impressive booty for someone who did not take formal lessons in jewelry-making.

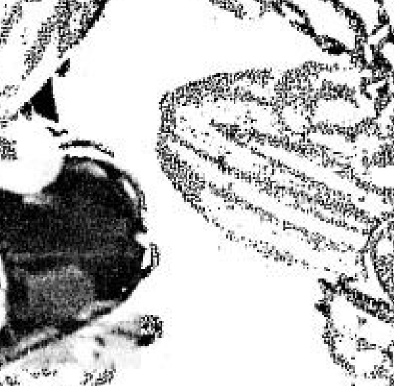
Her creations are priced from P500 (a small pendant or a pair of earrings) to P3,000. Some are flirty and playful, others are for the mature set, but to Ciara, every piece she makes is a work of art.

TWISTED cuff made of cherry quartz, cat's eye, aquamarine and moonstone embedded on stainless steel and aluminum wire

PAIR of earrings made of aquamarine, Indian Red Swarovski crystals, freshwater pearls and moonstone embedded on stainless steel wire

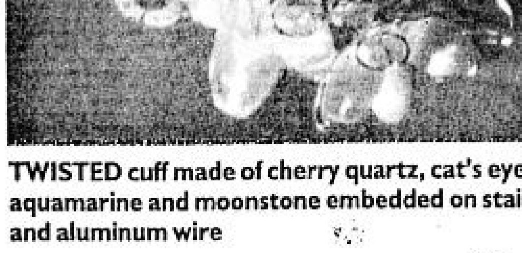
CRAB cuff made of freshwater pearls, jade, emerald glass crystals and a moonstone embedded on aluminum and stainless steel wire

PAIR of peinetas made of freshwater pearls, moonstones, glass crystals and rhinestones embedded on stainless steel wire

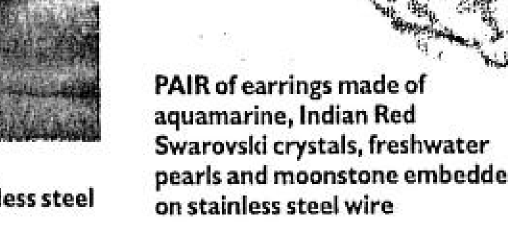


PAIR of push and pull earrings made of ruby, olive and purple glass crystals and faceted amethysts embedded on stainless steel wire

PAIR of earrings made of pearl and glass crystals and Swarovski accents embedded on stainless steel wire

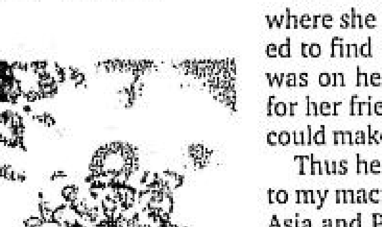


RINGS made of rose quartz, Swarovski crystals and freshwater pearls embedded on stainless steel wire

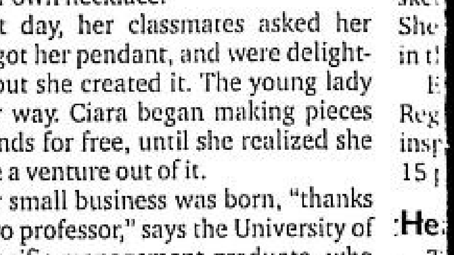


RING made of olive, lavender, violet glass crystals, amethyst and a freshwater pearl accent embedded on stainless steel wire

PENDANT made of rose and cherry quartz with pink Swarovski accents embedded on stainless steel wire. Fashioned on a leather strap.



RING made of freshwater pearls, moonstone, aquamarine and an Indian red Swarovski center embedded on gold wire



BROOCH made of moonstone, freshwa pearls, rhinestones and an onyx embedd on stainless steel wire

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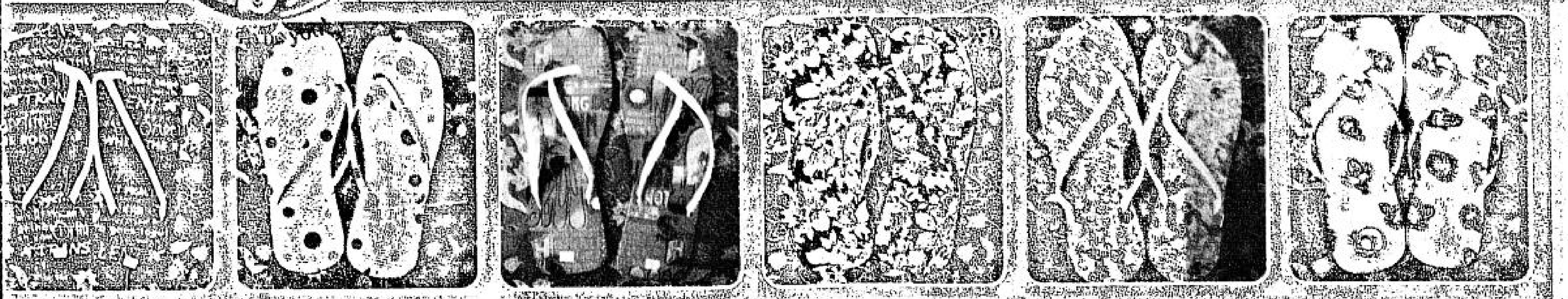

PING for flip flops. P150 per pair

Bazaar addicts, unite!

From page E1

09189218927 or 9292238 or visit her store at 10 Maamo St. Sikatuna Village, QC on Sundays.

The Outdoor Bazaar, which serves as a countdown to the opening of the Ortigas Bazaar Center, is open all Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays of September, from 5 p.m. onwards at The Ortigas Town Center along Julia Vargas Avenue, across the gate of Valle Verde 3.

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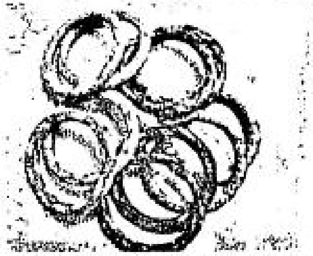
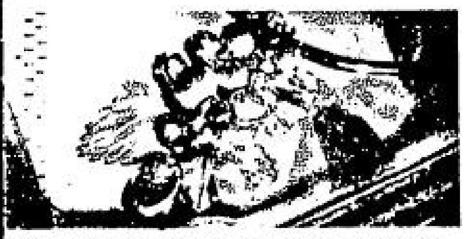
AI PRINCESS. Super
pped Liza Puti-an travels to
gkok regularly for more
t finds.



CRAZY bangles, P90 each

PANTS of all colors, P350

g sparkler



DANT made of freshwater pearls, glass
als and Mother of Pearl leaves with a
ovski accent embedded on stainless
wire

prefer to call them functional pieces of -or art you can wear," she says, disliking erm "accessories."

ne can understand her aversion to the . given the uniqueness of each item. Cia-oes not mass-produce. There are no hes, no actual designs for each piece. nerely lets her fingers work with the wire e intimacy of her bedroom.

en now when she has an apprentice, ie, Ciara makes it a point to personally ct each piece. Together, they can make ieces a day.

ling stones

nis wire artist is only too glad to help ts choose the stones to use for their jew- She believes crystals emit energies that ribute to an individual's sense of inner e and balance, but says she experiments with color combinations and their cut. scours Thailand and China for her , since local ones tend to be inconsistent ality.

dered pieces require three days' lead . Ciara Creates is busiest during the tmas season, not only because its gems the perfect gifts to loved ones. It can also make a lovely present to one's self and is best worn during Christmas parties.

It certainly helps that Ciara herself wears her pieces to functions. She has set her eyes on the young market for her creations, and she has noticed that more and more colegialas are getting attracted to her ultra-feminine creations.

A corner stall in Greenbelt 3 is a dream of hers, but right now, she's quite happy being sought out at her home in Santiago Village, Makati City.

"People like it when they feel they've discovered a secret," she says. But as secrets go, this one has leapt boundaries: Ciara's pieces were sold for one season at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong and in a group of boutiques in Los Angeles. All through word-of-mouth.

Ciara collaborates with designers Richie Ortega of Souk ("whenever his gowns need some accent") and Rajo Laurel ("we've done several weddings together"). The latter displays her items at his House of Laurel in Makati. Her pieces were also a big hit when she joined the INQUIRER Super's Market bazaar in Rockwell.

And with the recent three-month showcase of her pieces in "Palamuti" with Arnel Papa at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ciara feels happy that her creations are becoming seen as more than just gemstones.

"These are very unique pieces you would want to wear your whole life," she says with much pride.

Contact Ciara Creates at 8994080, 8965450 or 0918-9220795, e-mail artist@ciaracreates.com, or visit the website at www.ciaracreates.com

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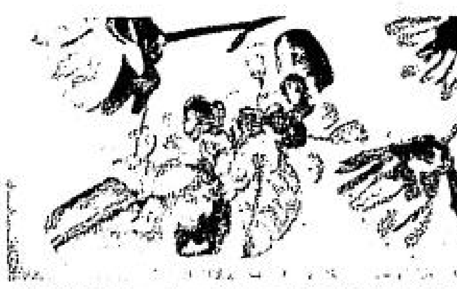
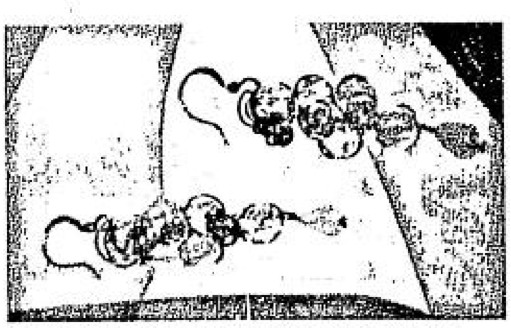


BROOCH made of rose and cherry quartz, unpolished and faceted amethyst, fuchsia Swarovski crystals and lavender glass crystals on stainless steel wire



PAIR of danglers made of rose quartz and pink Swarovski crystals embedded on stainless steel wire

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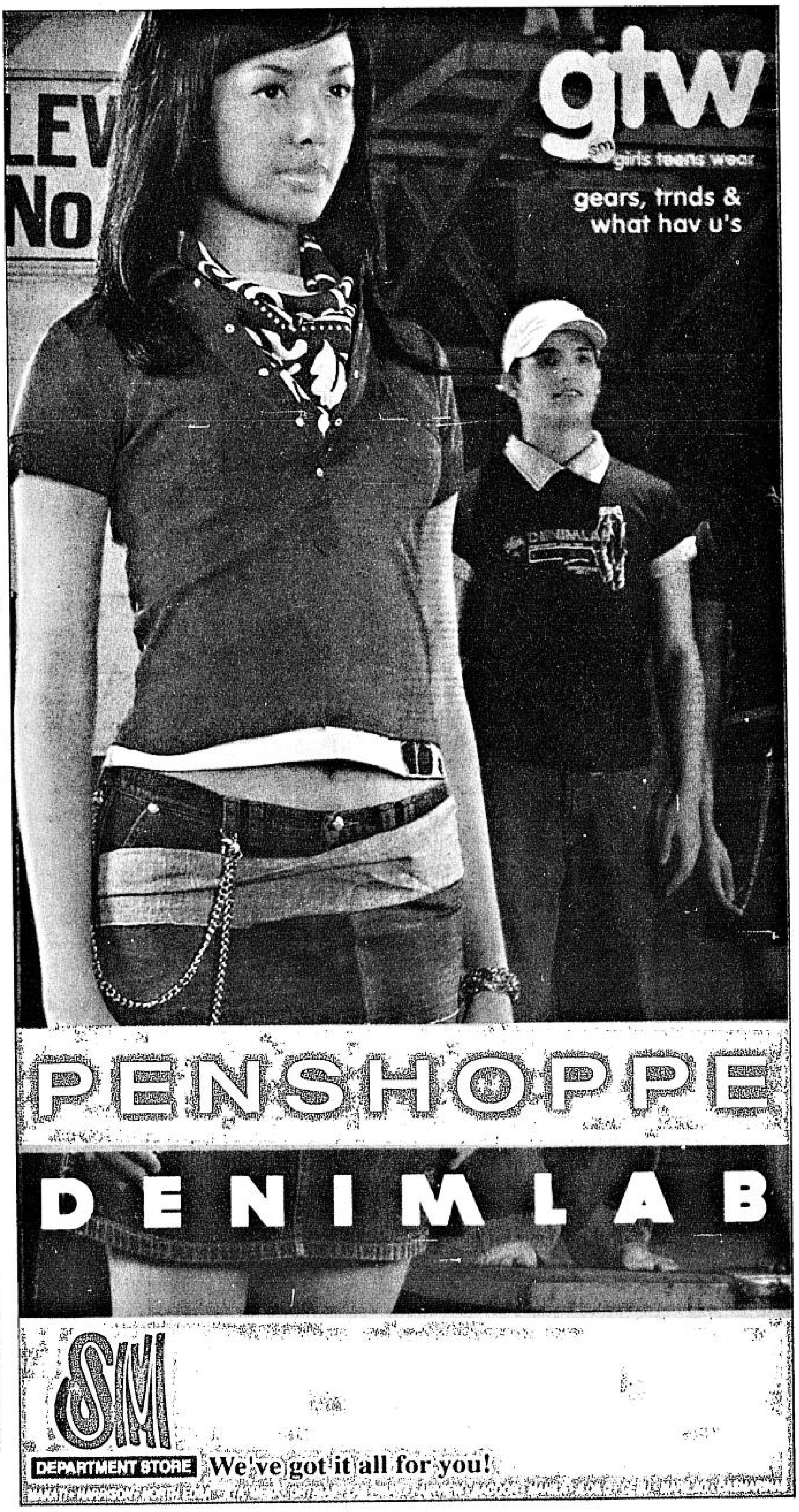

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Warm up somebody's rainy day!

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GREET 'N LOAD

SEND A SURPRISE!

It's a special greeting with P10 load so your buddy can tell you how much she misses your warm smile! SMART PasaLoad Greet 'N Load is complete – your special greeting will be sent along with an MMS image, pic message, logo or ringtone that fully expresses how you feel.

To get info, text
GIFT to 232

1 Type <friend's cellphone number> <category keyword>
2 Send to 232 — 232

CATEGORY	KEYWORD	SAMPLE PIC
Anniversary	ANNIV	
Birthday	BDAY	
Congratulations	CONGRATS	GOOD JOB!
Happiness	HAPPY	
Hello	HELLO	Yo dude!
Love	LOVE	
Miss You	MISS	
Lonely	SAD	
Sorry	SORRY	Sori Lab!

MMS WALLPAPERS

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heller
clown
loved2
winner
missu
alien_peace
happybday
friends4
hogme
fall4u
superkid
friends
luvcow

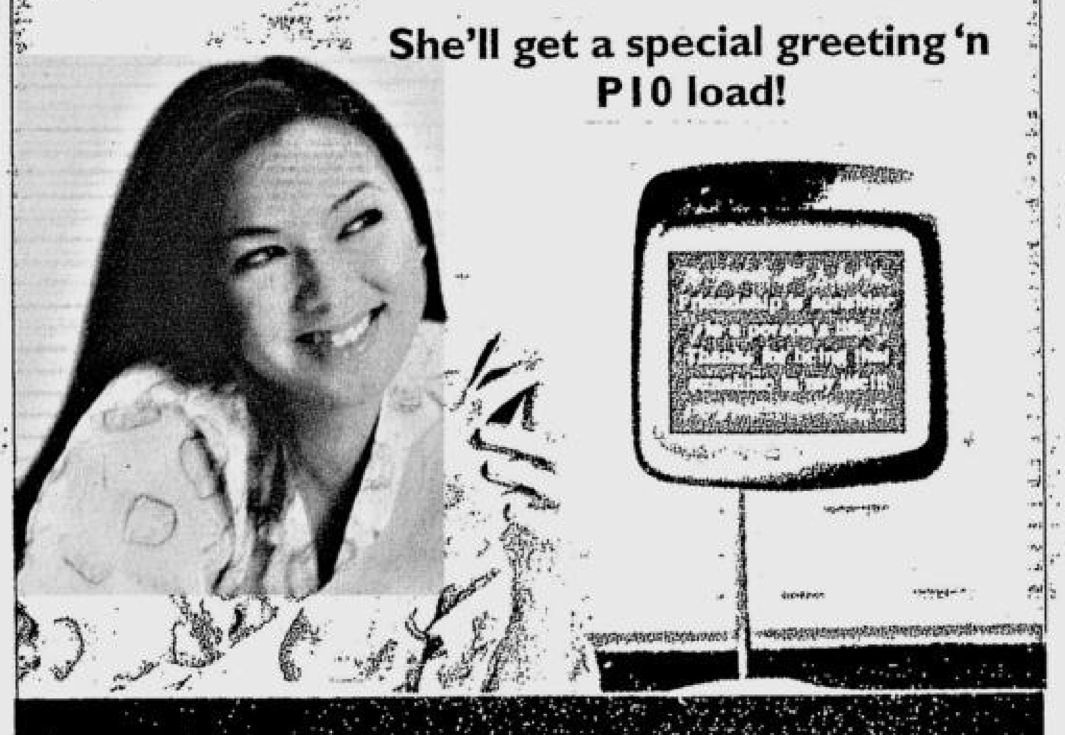
LOGOS

balloon_clown, flowhart, luvbirds, luvpuppies, missu
hugbear, cupid_heart, cute, hugme, panda_kamusta
angel, arf, 3girls, 7hearts, hey_koala

RINGTONES

TITLE	MONOTONE KEYWORD	POLYTONE KEYWORD
Ocho Ocho - Pamela Remix	88pamela2	88pamela6
Kahit Di Sabihin	disabihin2	disabihin6
This Guy's In Love With You Pare	disguysinluv2	disguysinluv6
Kailan Kaya	klankaya2	klankaya6
Machonurin	machonurin2	machonurin6
Pagbigyang Muli	pagbigyan2	pagbigyan6
Pamela	pamela2	pamela6
Panaginip Lang Kaya	panaginip2	panaginip6
Rainbow	rainbow2	rainbow6
Star Circle Quest Theme	starcircle2	starcircle6
Sunod Sa Galaw	sumusunod2	sumusunod6
Tanging Ina	tangingina2	tangingina6

She'll get a special greeting 'n P10 load!



To give Greet 'N Load

1 Type <friend's cellphone number> <PIC message keyword> or <MMS keyword> or <LOGO keyword> or <RINGTONE keyword> — 09283148948 rainbow6
2 Send to 232 — 232
3 Your recipient will receive a confirmation message — Hi! Your friend 0928XXXXXXX sends you a gift of P10 load and the polytone RAINBOW

Applicable download and PasaLoad rates apply. Service available to prepaid-to-prepaid users and postpaid-to-prepaid users only. Prepaid subscribers with new SIM need to load their account first to be able to send PasaLoad Greet 'N Load.

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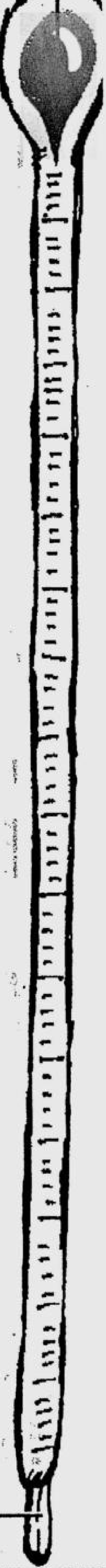
Ah! Life's essentials



"THE TERMINAL." It's a beautiful, beautiful movie. If you haven't seen it, watch it. If you have, watch it again.

ETC CHANNEL. It's great to have good old Conan and Jay back on our tubes once again. Although we're not too keen on "Starting Over," we're loving "The OC," "Will and Grace" and even the "Iron Chef." And we're sure there's also a market for the silly dating shows.

WE are waiting with bated breath for the "The Amazing Race" episodes shot in the Philippines. And the waiting is almost over. The first one will air tonight. Bring on the popcorn, it's gonna be an interesting show.

CLICK the City on GPRS. It's time for a confession. We have gotten way too dependent on this GPRS site. We check it for movie schedules, for phone numbers of restaurants, for locations of our favorite stores. Click the City, congratulations. You have become an essential.

EMBELLISHED HAVAIANAS. Beads bring new life to the flip flops we love. Visit Aura Athletica and Tabu to get yourself a pair (or a dozen). Your tootsies will be grateful.

'TIZERS. If appetizers are your favorite part of the meal, you're gonna love 'Tizers at Eastwood Mall's cinemas. Their buffalo wings are a must-try.

FLASH THE PLASTIC. MTV's new credit card will be launched on Friday at Temple Bar. This credit card will also serve as your ticket to discounts, freebies and exclusive invites to exciting events. If you want your own card, drop by any Equitable PCIBank branch or check out the mall tours in the coming weeks.

SENATORS IN SITCOMS. Don't you have better things to do?

FISCAL CRISIS. And people still wonder why so many are desperate to find better lives elsewhere?

ACTS OF TERRORISM. The car bomb in Jakarta, the plane crashes in Russia, the school siege in Beslan. When will the violence stop? We just want peace.

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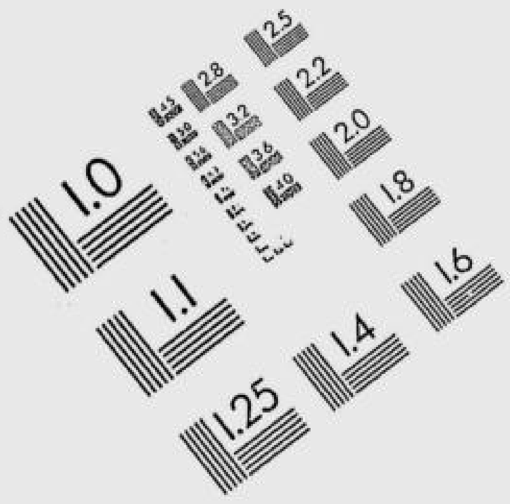
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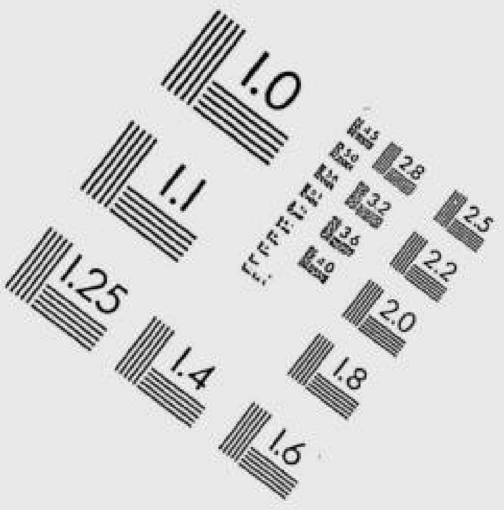
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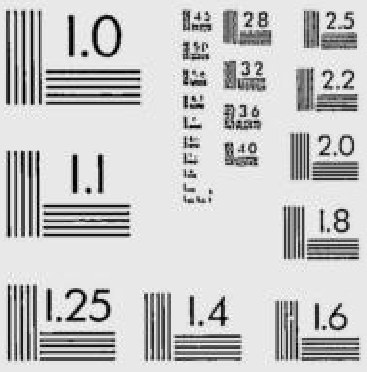
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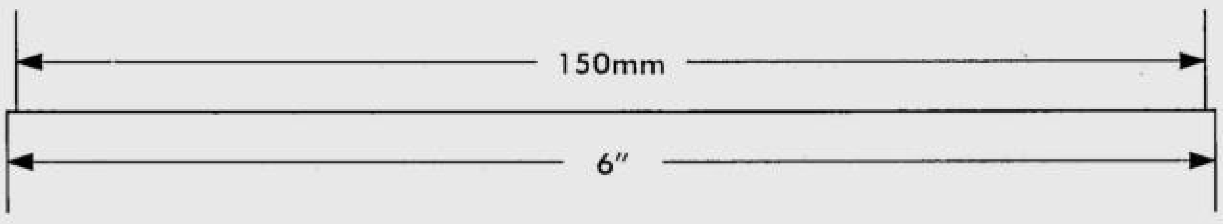

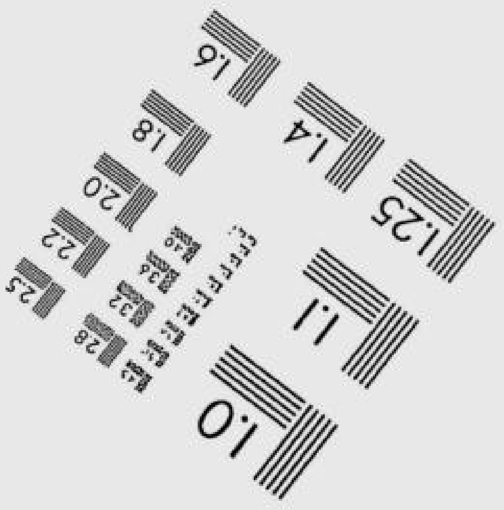
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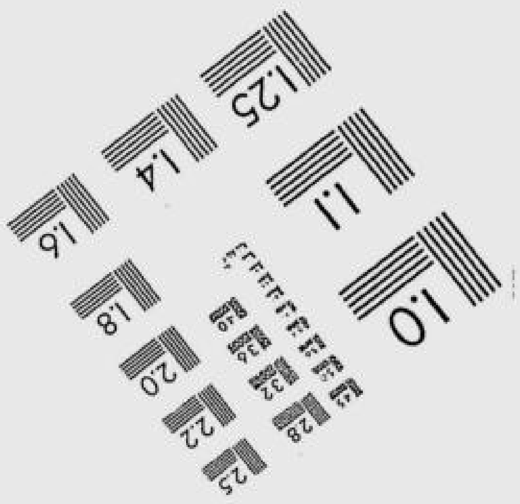
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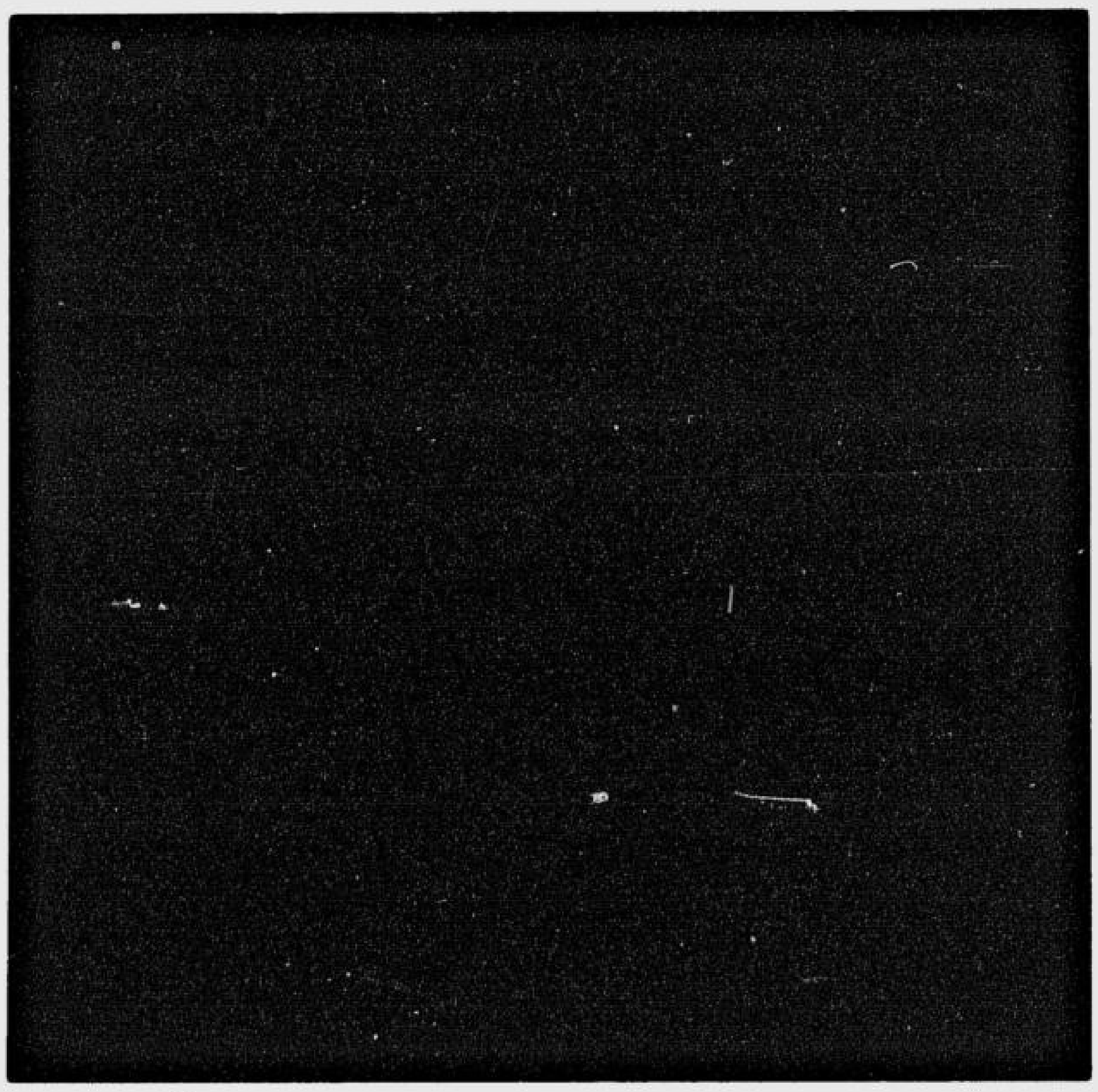

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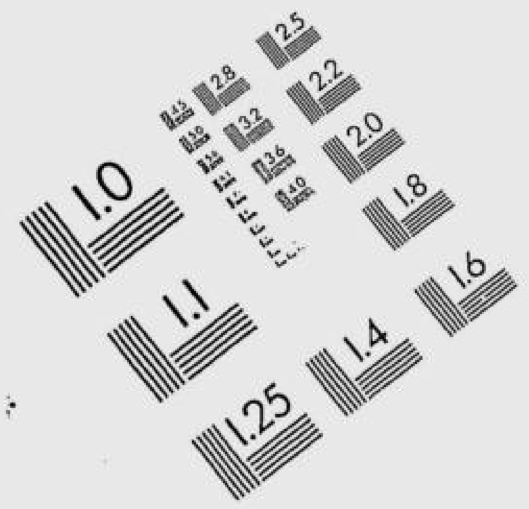
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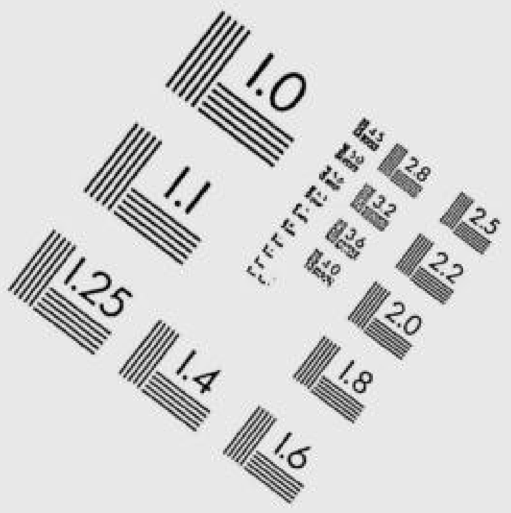
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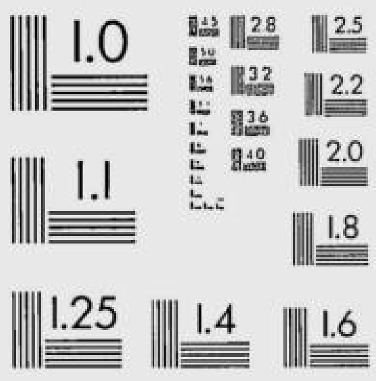
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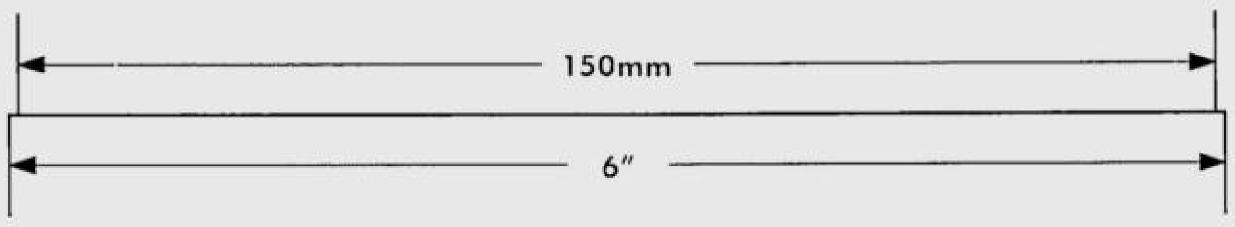

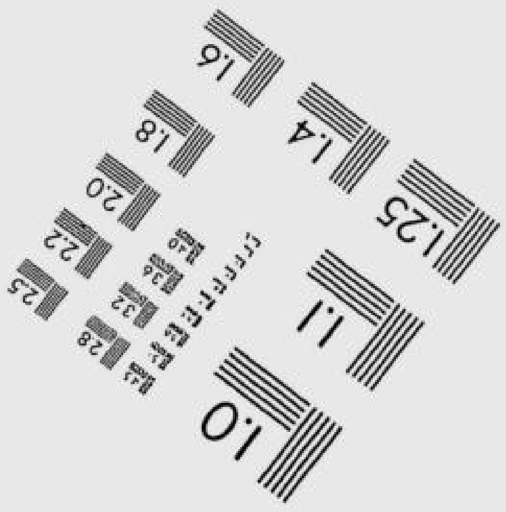
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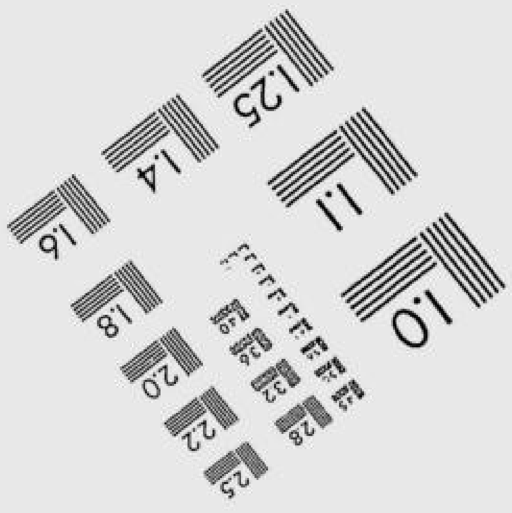
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